



# 3RD GRADE COMMITMENT

Shelby County Schools identifies student achievement as its highest priority. Specific revisions to **Policy 5013 Promotion and Retention** were developed to ensure we hold district and school leaders, teachers, and all stakeholders accountable towards the **3rd Grade Commitment**. The intent of the policy revision is to ensure that students have the necessary reading skills to be successful before they reach third grade. Third grade has been identified as important to reading literacy because it is the year children are "reading to learn." If students are not proficient readers by the time they reach third grade, half of the curriculum they will be taught in third grade and beyond will be incomprehensible.

This 3rd Grade Commitment is a collaborative effort between schools, parents and community towards ensuring we all work together to best help SCS students reach reading readiness by third grade.

## FACTS



**As early as age 3**, a child's vocabulary can predict third-grade reading achievement\*



**61% of children** from low-income backgrounds have no children's books at home.\*



At the end of 2018, only **27% of SCS third grade students** were proficient on the TNReady English Language Arts assessment.



Students who do not read proficiently by the third grade are **4 times more likely** to drop out of high school.\*



## CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

Students will have opportunities throughout their second grade year to demonstrate progress towards the 12 Criteria for Success. Based on Policy 5013, students must meet 8 of 12 success criteria by the spring term to be promoted to the third grade.

TYPE OF MEASURE	FREQUENCY OF MEASURE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
REPORT CARD GRADE	ONCE PER QUARTER (4 POSSIBLE POINTS)	70 OR HIGHER IN ELA
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT - MOVING FROM NWEA MAP TO MASTERY CONNECT	FALL, WINTER, & SPRING (3 POSSIBLE POINTS)	ON-TRACK OR MASTERY IN ELA
BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT - ILLUMINATE	FALL, WINTER, & SPRING (3 POSSIBLE POINTS)	FALL: LEXILE 350 WINTER: LEXILE 420 SPRING: LEXILE 485
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT - TN READY	SPRING (2 POSSIBLE POINTS)	ON-TRACK OR MASTERY IN ELA

## ADDITIONAL FACTS

ELA = English Language Arts

\*Lexile scores inform on a student's reading ability



**When will the specific revisions to Policy 5013, relative to the retention of 2nd graders take effect?** Implementation is now 2021-22. There is no impact in 2019-20.



**How will parents know if a student will be retained?** Parents of second graders considered for retention will be informed by February 1 each year.



**How can retained students be promoted to third grade?** Second graders who meet the success criteria in summer school or within the first 45 days of the following year will be promoted.

Source: literacymidsouth.org

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