

North Carolina Beginning-of-Grade 3 Reading Test Assessment Brief

Purpose of the Test

The North Carolina Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) Reading Test is linked to the Read to Achieve law and is aligned to the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study*. Students read literary and informational selections and then answer questions related to the selections. Knowledge of vocabulary is assessed indirectly through application and understanding of terms within the context of the selections and questions.

This test:

1. establishes a baseline measure of beginning third-grade students' reading comprehension.
2. satisfies the requirements of the Read to Achieve legislation for students who score achievement level 3 or higher on the test. Students who are not proficient on the end-of-grade test but were proficient on the BOG3 Reading Test count as proficient in the performance composite and school performance grades.
3. is used for school accountability growth and student growth for teachers and administrators.
4. serves as a teacher-growth tool for determining those teachers who are well-suited to teach at reading camps ([G.S.§115C-83.3\[4a\]](#)).

Eligible Students

All students in membership at grade 3 (according to the North Carolina Student Information System) are expected to participate with or without accommodations in the administration of the BOG3 Reading Test. The only exceptions are:

- students with disabilities who, according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP) documentation, participate in the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment in accordance with state policies.
- transfer students who from within North Carolina who were administered the BOG3 reading test at their former school before moving.
- in rare cases, students deemed medically fragile because of a significant medical emergency or condition and who are unable to participate in the BOG3 reading test may be granted a medical exception. All medical exceptions must be approved by the Office of Accountability and Testing.

Testing Format

The BOG3 Reading Test requires online administration unless a paper format is necessary for students with a documented accessibility need.

Testing Window

The BOG3 Reading Test must be administered through the NCTest platform during the state-designated testing window (i.e., days 1–15 of school year). The NCTest platform opens on July 18, 2026. For year round schools that begin before then, day one begins on July 18, 2026.

Online and Paper Practice Requirement

All students participating in the BOG3 Reading Test must be provided with a practice

opportunity before the test administration. Completing a practice opportunity can minimize students' test anxiety and prevent possible errors on the test. For online test administrations, students complete the online reading tutorial for the BOG3 reading test. For paper test administrations, students complete the paper BOG3 Reading Practice Activity.

Administration Time

Most students finish the BOG3 Reading Test in 120 minutes; however, students are allowed up to 180 minutes to complete the test. No test administration may exceed 180 minutes (except for students with documented accommodations, such as *Scheduled Extended Time*). The test must be administered in one school day (except for students with documented accommodations, such as *Multiple Testing Sessions*). Schools must ensure that all students participating in the BOG3 Reading Test are allowed the maximum time to complete the test. If students are engaged and working, and the maximum time allowed has not been reached, students must be given this time to complete the test.

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