

Read to Achieve (RtA) Frequently Asked Questions

Testing Requirements

1. Which test(s) can be offered to grade 3 students who did not meet the RtA requirements after the first administration of the end-of-grade (EOG) reading test?

Students who did not meet the RtA requirements as part of the first administration of the EOG reading test may be administered the grade 3 EOG reading retest, the RtA test, or both. This testing must occur within the state mandated end-of-year, ten-day testing window.

2. Can schools provide more than one testing opportunity following the first administration of the EOG reading test?

Yes, schools can provide more than one testing opportunity following the first administration of the EOG reading test within the testing window (i.e., grade 3 EOG reading retest, RtA test).

3. If a parent or guardian does not want his or her student retested following the first administration of the grade 3 EOG reading test, can the parent or guardian request his or her student not retest?

Yes, a parent can request his or her student not be retested. A student does not have to take the grade 3 EOG reading retest or RtA test.

4. If a student does not take the grade 3 EOG reading retest or RtA test, and does not go to reading camp, is the student automatically retained in the third grade and taught the third-grade standards?

In this situation, students are not automatically retained in the third grade. The principal makes the final grade placement decision for the next school year. If a student is not proficient in reading, then the student may be (1) retained in third grade, (2) placed in a transitional third and fourth class combination, or (3) placed in a fourth-grade accelerated class.

5. Is a student required to attend reading camp?

No, a parent or guardian decides if the student will attend reading camp.

6. If a grade 3 student qualifies for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) after the grade 3 EOG reading test does the student now qualify for a good cause exemption?

No, an IEP must be in place before the student takes the grade 3 EOG reading test to qualify for a good cause exemption.

Student Reading Portfolio

7. Do students in transitional third and fourth combination classes or fourth-grade accelerated students continue working on the portfolio? Does the work the students completed in third grade as part of the portfolio carry over to fourth grade?

Students in the transitional third and fourth class combination or a fourth-grade accelerated classes may continue to work on the portfolio that was started during third grade.

Fourth-grade students with a reading retained label may begin a reading portfolio while in a transitional third and fourth class combination or a fourth-grade accelerated class, even if a reading portfolio was not started the prior year.

8. Do students retained in third grade need to start a new portfolio?

No, students retained in third grade are not required to begin a new portfolio. They may continue the same portfolio started in the previous third grade year as a pathway to proficiency.

9. Can instructional passages from the portfolio be used for all students in a third-grade class?

Yes, instructional passages can be used for all students. Teachers should always align the use of the instructional passages with the standard being taught.

10. Can the portfolio's instructional and assessment passages be utilized with students who are learning virtually or be sent home for students to use remotely?

No, the portfolio's instructional and assessment passages cannot be utilized with students learning virtually (e.g., virtual platform, screen sharing) or sent home for students to complete remotely because the passages contain copyrighted information.

11. Can schools send the portfolio's released passages home for students learning virtually?

Yes, released passages are available for public use, including for students learning virtually. The released passages are found on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's website at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/accountability/testing/readtoachievet/rta-grade-3-portfolio-released-items> and may be copied or uploaded to a virtual platform.

PowerSchool Codes

12. How is a student's RtA Reading Retained label coded in PowerSchool?

For information about how to code the RtA Reading Retained label in PowerSchool, click [here](#).

13. When is the RtA Reading Retained label coded in PowerSchool?

The Retention-Reading label can be entered in PowerSchool any time after reading camp, preferably before September 1, to facilitate reports to the General Assembly and fall RtA eligibility determinations.

14. When should the RtA Retention-Reading status code be updated in PowerSchool?

- For any student who begins the school year with a Retention-Reading code in PowerSchool and demonstrates third grade reading proficiency by November 1, the Retention-Reading code should be removed and the Mid-Year Removal—RtA label should be added no later than November 1.
- For any student who has a Retention-Reading code in PowerSchool after November 1, demonstrates third grade reading proficiency by the end of the school year, and is being promoted directly to the fifth grade the Retention-Reading label should be removed and the removal RtA label in PowerSchool should be added no later than June 14, 2024.
- For additional information about reading retained reporting guidance, click [here](#).

15. If a student's RtA status in PowerSchool is incorrect when a student transfers to the school, can the receiving school modify the RtA status?

Yes, the RtA status must be corrected if a transfer student has an incorrect RtA status coded in PowerSchool upon arrival at the school. When a school receives a fourth-grade student, the appropriate school staff should check with the previous school about placement. The results of the grade 3 EOG reading test should be in all cumulative records. If a student is not proficient, then the student should have a reading retained label unless the parents or guardians or the previous school can provide evidence of a passing marker after the first administration of the grade 3 EOG reading test.