MSCS Literacy Commitment

Jaron Carson, Chief Academic Officer
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 2022, only 14.7% of MSCS third grade students were proficient on the TCAP English Language Arts assessment. Our goal is by the end of 2025, 40% of MSCS students will be proficient in ELA.

Students who do not read proficiently by third grade are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school.
Literacy Commitment: 2021-2022
Tracking 2nd Grade Student Success

2021-22 School Year

Tracking ELA in 2nd grade using the following measures:

- Report Card Grades (4 points)
- Formative Assessment - Mastery Connect (3 points)
- Universal Screener (3 points)
- Summative Assessment – TCAP (2 points)
- 2nd-grade students were required to meet 8 of the 12 success criteria points to be promoted to 3rd grade.

Opportunity to Reclaim Success Criteria Points:

- Achieving the 425 Lexile level during the final assessment window will automatically count for 3 Success Criteria for the Universal Screener.
- Achieving on track or mastery on the ELA/Reading portion of the TCAP will automatically count towards all the 12 previously missed Success Criteria.

Summer Learning Pathways

- Summer Learning Pathways were developed to provide intervention for 2nd grade students who did not meet the success criteria and enrichment for 2nd grade students who did meet the success criteria point.
Tracking Student Success

OLD

3rd Grade Commitment
2021-2022 School Year
Tracking Student Success

NEW

Literacy Commitment
2022-2023 School Year
Monitoring & Supporting Student Success
## Literacy Commitment 2022-2023

### NEW Simplified Indicator

**Monitoring & Supporting K-2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade Student Success**  
**Identifying At-Risk Students (Not used for retention)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten ELA Measure</th>
<th>1\textsuperscript{st} Grade ELA Measure</th>
<th>Second Grade ELA Measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Universal Screener Assessment – iReady  
  Fall: 341  
  Winter: 371  
  *Spring: 401 | Universal Screener Assessment – iReady  
  Fall: 403  
  Winter: 424  
  *Spring: 454 | Universal Screener Assessment – iReady  
  Fall: 290  
  Winter: 355  
  *Spring: 425 |

* If student does not meet the required score/level, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that the student attends Summer Learning Academy.
Literacy Commitment:
Encompasses the State’s TN Learning Loss Remediation & Student Accelerated Student Learning (2022-2023)

NEW POLICY
3rd Grade - 2022-2023
4th Grade – 2023-2024
Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a student in the third grade shall not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test.”
Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, 3rd grade students must score an “on track” or “mastered” on TCAP’s ELA portion. If students score “approaching” or “below” and do not score proficient on the retest opportunity, they will need to attend a learning loss bridge camp and, if required, participate in the TN ALL Corps in 4th grade.

3RD GRADE IMPACT - SY 2022-2023
4TH GRADE IMPACT - SY 2023-2024

AT RISK FOR RETENTION?
HERE’S WHAT THE LITERACY COMMITMENT DOES FOR YOU:
A TCAP ELA retest will take place May 30 - June 9 – if your student scores PROFICIENT, they are promoted, no questions asked.

STUDENTS “APPROACHING”
IF THEY AREN’T PROFICIENT THE CHILD CAN:
Attend SLA (90% attendance) - take pre-test and post-test and show adequate growth
OR
Tutoring for ALL of the child’s fourth grade year (a minimum of two 30-minute sessions/week)

STUDENTS “BELOW”
IF THEY AREN’T PROFICIENT THE CHILD MUST:
Attend SLA (90% attendance) - take pre-test and post-test and show adequate growth
AND
Tutoring for ALL of the child’s fourth grade year (a minimum of two 30-minute sessions/week)
TN Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act

3rd graders can be **promoted** to 4th grade if:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Language Learners (ELL)</th>
<th>IEP or 504</th>
<th>Previously Retained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full school years of ELA instruction;</td>
<td>• The student has a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading. The IEP or 504 team must convene a meeting to discuss if the student can be promoted.</td>
<td>• The student was previously retained in any of the grades kindergarten through three (K-3).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TN Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act

Appeal Process Overview
Only 3rd graders who score APPROACHING on the TCAP:

Who?
Parent or legal guardian must submit the appeal to the local department.

Memphis-Shelby County Schools

How?
All appeals MUST be submitted on the appropriate appeal forms provided by the Department and posted on its website.

The notice that the student is at-risk for retention shall be considered received on the day it is electronically sent.

When?
Appeal must be submitted within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the notice.

A designee(s) shall review all properly submitted appeals, decide, and issue an electronic notification of the decision to the parent or legal guardian within fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving the appeal.
TN Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act

Grounds to Appeal
Only 3rd graders who score APPROACHING on the TCAP:

**Ground 1:**
The student demonstrated growth:
* above the national norm as demonstrated in the student’s composite score the universal reading screener (i-Ready)
  AND
* in standards mastery based on the student’s scores on a state-approved standards-based benchmark assessment (Mastery Connect)

**Ground 2:**
The parent or legal guardian of the student has identified a catastrophic situation that occurred during the days leading up to the 3rd grade ELA TCAP test administration that impacted the student and impeded the student’s ability to perform on the test.

(Examples of a catastrophic situations: a death in the immediate family, loss of a family home, or significant medical diagnosis.)
What does the law say for next year (2023-2024) for 4th graders?

All 4th grade students

Demonstrate adequate growth on ELA TCAP 2024

Promoted to 5th grade
Parents’ Guide to Testing Help

https://www.tn.gov/education.html
Closeout: Q&A

Thank You!
1. Will parents receive a copy of the conditions that would cause the students to be retained? Yes. Please see Slides 8, 9, and 10.

2. Will students be given practice TCAP tests? Yes. Our weekly assessments, Do Now questions, and bi-weekly assessments are in TCAP format. We will also have a mock TCAP assessment as we get closer to the test. We want our students to practice, practice, practice!!! Be on the lookout for a Spring Break packet that also has TCAP-type questions.

3. Are there practice tests parents can purchase to help students to pass the TCAP tests? Yes. The following is a link to State resources and practice tests: 
You can also check Amazon for TCAP practice tests as well. Here is a link to a search: 

4. Will tutoring be provided for students now? If so, when, and how do we sign them up? Our official tutoring started back in September. We had a major push for parents to sign up, but that program is now full. Each day, however, all students have an intervention period where we focus on foundational skills. It is very important for students to arrive on time, by 9:15am, stay all day, without being checked out, and attend each day, Students who arrive late or check out early miss intervention and parts of their ELA blocks.

5. You mentioned tablets – were tablets distributed to students this year? Yes. Tablets were, and still are being distributed. The device inventory, however, is not housed at the schools. Mr. Hunter, Parent Engagement Specialist, submits requests and distributes devices as they are delivered to us. If a student damages a device, please send it to school so Mr. Hunter can submit a ticket and inform you of next steps. If you have never received a device, please contact the office and ask...
6. iReady—Will the students’ progress on I-Ready affect their grades or ability to be promoted? iReady progress will not determine if a student is retained. The law states that 3rd Grade retention is based on students scoring on track or mastery on the TCAP Assessment at the end of the year. iReady scores and progress can, however, be used to appeal a student’s retention.

7. Mastery Connect – Is this another tool to be used by 3rd graders? Mastery Connect is a program the district uses to assess students throughout the year. Our school also creates bi-weekly assessments using Mastery Connect to monitor how well students master the standards throughout the year. When you receive communication that we will be have Mastery Connect testing, it is important to ensure your student attends school each day, on time, and remain at school the entire day. The scores from these assessments help teachers build interventions to support the skills that are tested.

8. If students are retained, what are their options for being promoted to the 4th grade? I think I heard you say they could attend summer classes and retest or attend tutoring in the 4th grade. How and who makes the decision and how is that decision communicated to the school system? See Slides 8-11 for details on retention and promotion. The final decision is made by the State Law. Memphis-Shelby County Schools will inform schools and parents of their student’s status following the TCAP and, for students who do not score on track or mastery, the results from the re-test.

9. What are the dates for retesting? How many days will the testing take place?
10. Summer Learning – You mentioned summer learning, but I didn’t understand what it is. Is this summer school? Summer Learning is an intervention summer program, similar to summer school, used to mitigate learning loss. It is different from summer school because it is not a promotional program. Being promoted to 4th grade is based on the set of criteria mentioned in Slides 8-11.

11. Summer School (If different from summer learning) – If students are retained, can they be promoted if they attend summer school? Students can only be promoted to 3rd grade if they pass the ELA portion of the TCAP Assessment. If a student passes the ELA portion of the TCAP, but fails Math or Science, he/she may complete summer school and be promoted to 4th grade.

Please complete the parent survey below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSCSLiteracyCommitment
For any MSCS Literacy Commitment questions, please email: thirdgradecommunity@scsk12.org

Academic Team:
Audra Smith
LaTosha Wiseman