



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Commitment



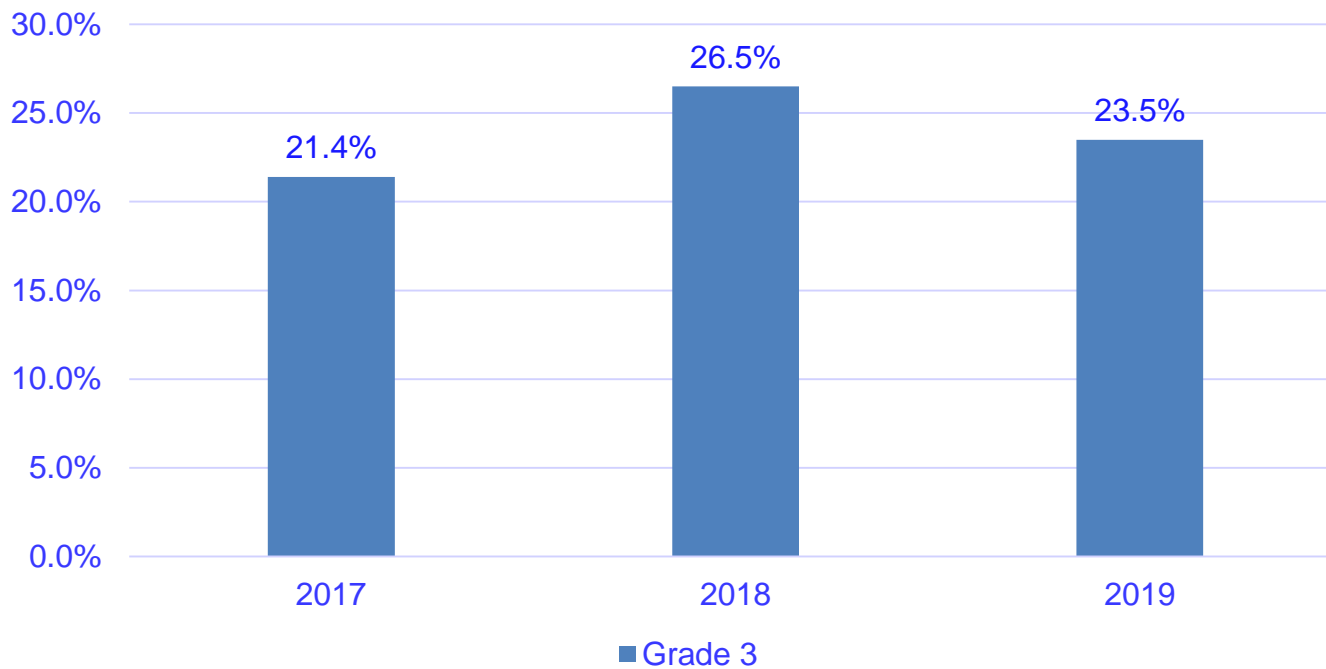
For frequent updates and resources: [www.scsk12.org/commitment](http://www.scsk12.org/commitment)



# SCS English Language Arts Proficiency

Roughly 76% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are not proficient readers

% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students proficient in ELA on TNReady





# Impact of Inadequate Reading Skills

## Impact of Inadequate Reading Skills



# Learning to Read vs. Reading to Learn



Reading proficiently by the end of third grade is critical because it is a pivotal point that highlights the shift from **learning to read** to **reading to learn**.

## Learning to READ

Acquiring & practicing decoding skills

Building knowledge to make meaning from print



## Reading to LEARN

Fluently reading text with the purpose of gaining knowledge

Thinking critically about a topic

# Proficient vs. Non-Proficient Readers

## Proficient

When students move into fourth grade and higher, skilled (proficient) readers learn knowledge and new words from context, while poor readers, out of frustration, begin to avoid reading.

## Non-proficient

The gap between proficient and non-proficient readers increases. In other words, the academically rich get richer and the poor get poorer, as small differences in learning ability grow into large reading gaps, evident in reading data.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Commitment





## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Commitment

- In 2019 the Shelby County School Board voted on a revision the Administrative Rules and Regulations to [Policy 5013 Promotion and Retention](#).
- The revision was created to ensure we hold district and school leaders, teachers, and all stakeholders accountable towards ensuring SCS students have the necessary reading skills to be successful before they reach the third grade.
- Students who meet 8 of 12 [Criteria for Success](#) at the conclusion of the second grade, will be eligible for promotion to the third grade.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Commitment** is a collaborative effort between schools, parents and our community towards ensuring we all work together to help SCS students reach reading readiness before the third grade.



# What is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Commitment?

- **Update to SCS Policy 5013 Promotion and Retention**
- **Ensure students have the necessary reading skills they need to be successful before they reach the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students must reach (8) of the possible (12) points for promotion into the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this school year**

## Purpose:

Assess K-2<sup>ND</sup> grade students, with the stop-gap being 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, using Success Criteria to ensure students are on track for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade readiness.

### Quarter Grades (4 criteria)

- 70% or above in ELA

### 3 Formative Assessment Scores (3 criteria)

- 70% or better in ELA
- Sept. 20 – Oct. 8
- Nov. 29 – Dec. 17
- Feb. 28 – Apr. 1

### Universal Screener (3 criteria)

- Aug. 30 – Sept. 17
- Lexile 350
- Jan. 3 – Jan. 21
- Lexile 420
- Apr. 11-15 or May 9-20
- Lexile 485

### TN Ready Scores (2 criteria)

- On Track or Mastery in ELA

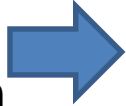
**Success  
Criteria for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Grade  
Promotion**



# K - 1 supports for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Commitment



## Evaluation Criteria for Kindergarten



Report Card Grades (4) Once per quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 80% or higher in ELA</li><li>• Quarter 1: 12 Skills</li><li>• Quarter 2: 13 Skills</li><li>• Quarter 3: 14 Skills</li><li>• Quarter 4: 16 Skill</li><li>• TOTAL skills: 55</li></ul>

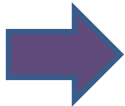
Universal Screener (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illuminate/FastBridge Norms – 50%</li><li>• Fall - 34</li><li>• Winter - 52</li><li>• Spring - 66</li></ul>

**Skills include:** naming uppercase letters, lowercase letters, recognizing rhyming words, understanding syllables, reading sight words, identifying and writing beginning/ending letter sounds.



Students must have mastered **80%** Literacy Skills per quarter on Report Card Grades and meet Lexile Criteria (not required for promotion)

## Evaluation Criteria for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Report Card Grades (4) Once per quarter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70% or higher in ELA</li></ul>

Universal Screener (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fall<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lexile - 120</li></ul></li><li>• Winter<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lexile - 235</li></ul></li><li>• Spring<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lexile - 350</li></ul></li></ul>



Students must pass **5** of the **7** Success Criteria (not required for promotion)

Any time a student does not meet one or more of the identified Success Criteria, an Academic Support Plan will be created to support the student, and parents will be notified to ensure they know the school is supporting the student and how to help at home.

## What parents can expect:



- ▷ Personalized Academic Support Plan for each K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade student
- ▷ High quality instruction
- ▷ Before, during, and after-school tutoring
- ▷ Paraprofessionals (teacher assistants) to support every 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade class
- ▷ Parent At Home Literacy Communication about student progress via parent letters and report cards
- ▷ Ongoing parent learning sessions
- ▷ Literacy Resources to support at-home reading
- ▷ Literacy Events throughout the year
- ▷ Access to parent resources via [scsk12.org/commitment](https://scsk12.org/commitment)

# Parent Resources

## Parent Toolbox

- [BookNook Learning: Free ELA gamified instructional lessons to complete with your student.](#)  
[Link to BookNook @Home \(for direct parent to child use\):](#)
- [3rd grade Commitment Parents' Guide To Student Success](#)
- [Literacy Everywhere Brochure](#)
- [Understanding the 3rd Grade Commitment PowerPoint Video](#)

## Learn About Reading And Literacy

- [Sight Words Book](#)
- [Sight Words Book \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Read for the Record](#)
- [Read to be Ready: A Vision for Third Grade Reading Proficiency](#) in the State of Tennessee
- [Understanding "Lexile" Scores](#)
- [Reading Rockets – Books and Activities for Summer Reading](#)
- [Explore Memphis – Memphis Public Library Summer Reading Program](#)
- [Libby – An easy way to borrow and read books online from the Memphis Public Library](#)