3rd Grade Commitment

For frequent updates and resources: www.scsk12.org/commitment
SCS English Language Arts Proficiency

% of 3rd grade students proficient in ELA on TNReady

- 2017: 21.4%
- 2018: 26.5%
- 2019: 23.5%

Roughly 76% of 3rd graders are not proficient readers.
Impact of Inadequate Reading Skills

- 50% of unemployed individuals ages 16 – 21 are not literate.
- Unemployment and links to poverty
- Link to incarceration rates
- 4x’s more likely to be arrested
- High School Drop Out
- 4x’s more likely to drop out
- Low self-esteem
- Behavioral issues
- Grade retention
- Literacy permeates ALL areas of life
- 1 in 4 children in America grow up without learning how to read
- Struggling 3rd Grade Readers
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
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.

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.
3rd 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 3rd 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\textsuperscript{rd} 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\textsuperscript{rd} grade.
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade Students must reach (8) of the possible (12) points for promotion into the 3\textsuperscript{rd} grade this school year

**Purpose:**
Assess K-2\textsuperscript{ND} grade students, with the stop-gap being 2\textsuperscript{nd} grade, using Success Criteria to ensure students are on track for 3\textsuperscript{rd} grade readiness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter Grades (4 criteria)</th>
<th>3 Formative Assessment Scores (3 criteria)</th>
<th>Universal Screener (3 criteria)</th>
<th>TN Ready Scores (2 criteria)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 70% or above in ELA</td>
<td>• 70% or better in ELA</td>
<td>• Aug. 30 – Sept. 17</td>
<td>• On Track or Mastery in ELA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sept. 20 – Oct. 8</td>
<td>• Lexile 350</td>
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<td>• Nov. 29 – Dec. 17</td>
<td>• Jan. 3 – Jan. 21</td>
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<td>• Feb. 28 – Apr. 1</td>
<td>• Lexile 420</td>
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<td>• Apr. 11-15 or May9-20</td>
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<td>• Lexile 485</td>
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K - 1 supports for 3rd Grade Commitment

**Evaluation Criteria for Kindergarten**

**Report Card Grades (4)**
- Once per quarter
  - 80% or higher in ELA
  - Quarter 1: 12 Skills
  - Quarter 2: 13 Skills
  - Quarter 3: 14 Skills
  - Quarter 4: 16 Skills
  - TOTAL skills: 55

**Universal Screener (3)**
- Illuminate/FastBridge Norms – 50%
  - Fall: 34
  - Winter: 52
  - Spring: 66

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

**Evaluation Criteria for 1st Grade**

**Report Card Grades (4)**
- Once per quarter
  - 70% or higher in ELA

**Universal Screener (3)**
- Fall
  - Lexile: 120
  - Winter
  - Lexile: 235
  - Spring
  - Lexile: 350

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.

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

Students must pass 5 of the 7 Success Criteria (not required for promotion).
What parents can expect:

- Personalized Academic Support Plan for each K-3rd grade student
- High quality instruction
- Before, during, and after-school tutoring
- Paraprofessionals (teacher assistants) to support every 2nd 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
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