



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**State of Michigan  
State Board of Education**

**Resolution Encouraging Parents to Be Informed  
on Read By Grade Three Exemptions**

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind grade three;

WHEREAS, if a third grade child's reading score on the English Language Arts M-STEP is more than one year below grade level, the state's Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) is required to send a letter to the parent or legal guardian of that child informing the parent/guardian that the child has been identified for retention in the third grade for the following school year;

WHEREAS, if the parent/guardian does not agree that the child should be retained in third grade, the parent can request a meeting with the child's school and file a good cause exemption within 30 days of receiving a notice regarding potential retention;

WHEREAS, if the parent/guardian requests a good cause exemption and one is granted by the school district, the child will be allowed to enroll in fourth grade in the next school year;

WHEREAS, state law requires that the child's school leadership must make itself available to discuss the child's progress; and

WHEREAS, the child's school needs to have a decision whether or not to retain the child 30 days before the first day of the next school year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **State Board of Education urges parents/guardians to fully engage in their right, written in state law, to seek from their local school superintendents, when applicable, good cause exemptions to the required retention of their children, and that school superintendents inform parents/guardians of all possible good cause exemptions available to parents/guardians and carefully consider all ramifications associated with retention before rendering a decision to retain a student.**

Adopted June 8, 2021

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CASANDRA E. ULBRICH – PRESIDENT • PAMELA PUGH – VICE PRESIDENT  
TIFFANY D. TILLEY – SECRETARY • TOM MCMILLIN – TREASURER  
JUDITH PRITCHETT – NASBE DELEGATE • ELLEN COGEN LIPTON  
NIKKI SNYDER • JASON STRAYHORN

608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788