



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 29, 2024

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent 
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

SUBJECT: Read by Grade Three Retention Repeal, Assessment Changes, and Continued Requirements

Over the past several years, Michigan's Read by Grade Three (RBG3) law ([MCL 380.1280f](#)) has provided guidance to local education agencies (LEAs), educators, and families. Recent changes to state statute are consistent with [research](#) that is unsupportive of retention as a strategy to improve student academic success. The statute leaves in place components that require reading intervention plans and instructional supports for students and communication with families.

Legislative Changes

Two public acts that codify these changes address the repeal of the retention component and assessment requirements, each with unique, effective dates, as described below:

- [Public Act 7 of 2023 \(effective February 13, 2024\)](#): Revised legislative language removes the retention component of the law and preserves components that require the communication of student progress with families. Because the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) testing window opens on April 8, 2024, and closes on May 17, 2024, current grade 3 students will not be identified for retention because the M-STEP will be administered after the RBG3 retention repeal effective date. Grade 3 students who score 1271 or below on the English Language Arts (ELA) M-STEP will be identified as having a reading deficiency per [MCL 380.1280f](#).
- [Public Act 224 of 2023 \(effective July 1, 2024\)](#): Section 1280f(2)(a) of this act specifies timelines for assessment in kindergarten within the first 90 days and grades 1 to 3 within the first 30 days of a school year.

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Legislative Continuance

Aside from the previously outlined changes, the RBG3 law remains largely intact, with specific communication components to be maintained as outlined below:

- Using addresses provided in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS), the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) will notify the family and school of each student who has been identified as having a reading deficiency. Districts must confirm accurate student addresses logged in MSDS. Letters for students experiencing homelessness will be mailed to school districts with the expectation that the homeless liaisons will distribute them directly to families.
- A school district or public school academy may also make its notification to a parent or guardian in addition to the notification by CEPI. Regularly checking student test scores in the Dynamic Score Reporting Site will maximize time for district communication with families about the strategies to support each student. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has created a [user guide](#) on accessing these scores in the Dynamic Score Reporting Site.
- To further support students, families, and districts with an understanding of the RBG3 law, MDE has updated the Parent and District resources available on the RBG3 [webpage](#), which include sample communications, strategies for families, and Michigan eLibrary early literacy links.

Other continuing RBG3 law requirements for local school districts include the following:

- **The Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP):** outlines the steps that will be taken to accelerate students' reading progress.
- **Evidence-based reading interventions:** provides students with individualized, increasingly intensive intervention support aligned with instructional methods consistent with the science of reading (e.g., phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, vocabulary comprehension).
- **Ongoing monitoring and response to literacy instruction:** informs adjustments to instruction that will accelerate reading outcome.

If you would like to receive RBG3 communications, please sign up [here](#). If you have questions, please contact the Literacy Unit at MDE-EarlyLiteracy@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments