
Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300

The Background:

This item proposes revisions to the State Board’s Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300 in accordance with State Board Promotion and Retention Rule 0520-01-03-.16 and T.C.A. § 49-6-3115.

The State Board of Education approved the Promotion and Retention Rule 0520-01-03-.16 in July 2022. Requirements for K-8 promotion and retention contained in the Promotion and Retention Policy were moved into the rule. Therefore, this item removes those requirements from the policy now that they are contained in rule and narrows the policy to focus on promotion and retention requirements for 3rd and 4th grade students in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3115.

Chapter 1 of the Public Acts of 2021, First Extraordinary Session (PC1), which included the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act updated the state’s third grade retention law. Specifically, section 2 of PC 1, now codified at T.C.A. § 49-6-3115, requires the following:

“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.”

The law then authorizes students who achieve a “below” or “approaching” performance level on the third grade ELA TCAP to be promoted if the student meets one of the exemption requirements outlined in the law, including certain retest, summer learning, and tutoring opportunities.

For students who score “approaching,” promotion opportunities include:

- The student retests on the TCAP and scores proficient on the retest;
- The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the school year, maintains 90% attendance at the camp, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test administered at the camp; or
- The student is assigned a TN ALL Corps tutor for the entirety of the upcoming school year.

For students who score “below,” promotion opportunities include:

- The student retests on the TCAP and scores proficient on the retest; or
- The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the school year, maintains 90% attendance at the camp, and the student is assigned a TN ALL Corps tutor for the entirety of the upcoming school year.

This item provides additional detail on how a student who scores “approaching” would demonstrate “adequate growth” on the pre-test and post-test to be promoted to the 4th grade if the student pursues a learning loss bridge camp as a promotion opportunity. The policy defines adequate growth as the student making at least 5% growth on the post-test compared to the pre-test. This definition is intended to capture a reasonable amount of growth a student would achieve during a 4-week camp relative to the student’s achievement during an entire school year.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA in addition to the authorizing legislation.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board’s strategic focus on literacy outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring early grade students demonstrate growth before being promoted to the next grade level.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.