



3rd Grade Benchmark Year

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The Florida State Legislature passed a law that affects the promotion/retention of students in third grade. Once a year, students take the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). If the student scores a Level 2 or above on the Reading Sunshine State Standards portion of the FCAT, he or she is eligible to be promoted. If a student scores a Level 1 on the FCAT in Reading, he/she will be retained, regardless of grades received on progress reports. However, a Level 1 student may be promoted if he/she meets one of the following six "good cause" exemptions identified by the state:

1. Students who demonstrate through a standardized student portfolio that they are reading at least at a Level 2 performance on FCAT. Every third grader in Flagler County will have a portfolio.
2. Limited English proficient students who have had less than two years of instruction in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program.
3. Students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate (i.e., special diploma).
4. Students who score at or above the 45th percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test10 (SAT-10).
5. Students with disabilities who participate in the FCAT and who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 plan that indicates that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than two years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading **and** was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3.
6. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency **and** who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3 for a total of two years.

The school principal will recommend any good cause exemptions, based on evaluative data, to the district superintendent who will accept or reject the recommendations.