Third graders will be promoted to fourth grade if they demonstrate sufficient reading skills through one of the following pathways:

- Score above the lowest achievement level for the ACAP in the spring
- Earn an acceptable score for the ACAP Supplemental Assessment
- Master grade 3 Essential Reading Standards in the Student Reading Portfolio
- Meet one of the Good Cause Exemptions

Good Cause Exemptions:

Good cause exemptions allow students who are reading below grade level to be promoted to the fourth grade but still receive interventions and other supports. The good cause exemptions include:

1. Students identified as English language learners who have had less than three years of instruction in English as a second language.

2. Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide English Language Arts reading assessment and who have an Individual Education Plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received intensive reading intervention for more than two years and who still demonstrates a deficiency in reading or was previously retained in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade.

3. Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years and who still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, first grade, or second grade for a total of two years.

*No student shall be retained more than once in the third grade.*

NOTE: Students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with state law, are automatically exempt from demonstrating sufficient reading skills outlined in this chapter in order to achieve promotion.

*If a student does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills through one of the three pathways or does not qualify for a good cause exemption, the student may not be promoted to fourth grade.*