

# Ohio Third Grade Reading Guarantee guidance

Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee is a program to identify students from kindergarten through third grade who are behind in reading. Schools will provide help and support to make sure students are on track for reading success by the end of third grade. Under this program, schools are required to administer a reading diagnostic, also known as a screener, to all students in kindergarten through third grade each year to measure whether a student is on track. Additionally, under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee program, all third-grade students must demonstrate an acceptable level of reading performance, meet a defined alternative reading assessment promotion score, or have parental or guardian request for promotion to the fourth grade.

## MAP Growth alternative promotion score

The alternative reading assessment is a standardized assessment for reading that can be used to make determinations about promotion for third-grade students. If a student reaches or exceeds the identified RIT score on MAP® Growth™, the student is eligible for promotion.

	RIT
Alternative promotion score grade 3	196

## MAP Growth/MAP Growth K–2 Fall “on-track” thresholds for the reading diagnostic assessment\*

The following table includes the reading threshold scores, updated based on the 2025 MAP Growth norms. Students with Fall MAP Growth scores below these thresholds are likely at risk for having difficulty in reading.

GRADE	ASSESSMENT	ON-TRACK RIT SCORE
K	MAP Growth K–2	134
1	MAP Growth K–2	150
2	MAP Growth K–2 or MAP Growth	156
3	MAP Growth	174

\*Note: The on-track scores shown for second and third grade are based on the lowest RIT score for the Basic performance level on Ohio's State Tests (OST) per the July 2025 linking study. Since the linking study provides MAP Growth cut scores for Grades 2–8 only, the scores in the on-track table for kindergarten and first grade are the MAP Growth universal screening cut scores found in a separate report (He & Meyer, 2025).

For further details around proficiency projections, please view our [linking study report](#).

## MAP Reading Fluency

K–3 students who take the MAP Reading Fluency™ assessment and receive an orange universal screener flag  in the Screener Outcomes report in either Foundational Skills or Oral Reading or a purple dyslexia screener flag \* are not on track for Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

EMIS Scoring: Districts will need to enter the numeric values “1” or “0” into EMIS to designate a student as being on-track or not on track. Enter a “0” for not on track and a “1” for on track.

Visit [NWEA.org/ohio](https://www.nwea.org/ohio) to learn more about our ODE-approved assessment solutions.

\* In Kindergarten, prior to January 1, the purple flag will not qualify students for dyslexia legislation as [ORC3323.251](#) articulates that Kindergartners are only tested with the dyslexia screener after January 1 or before January 1 of their first grade year. MAP® Reading Fluency™ can be used for students in grades 1-3, as requested by a parent or a teacher with permission from a parent, as a Tier 1 Dyslexia Screener.



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