

How can families help their children become strong readers?

3RD GRADE READING ASSESSMENT

FOR YEAR 2026

KEY INFORMATION & DATES

1. About the test: The Literacy-Based Promotion Act requires all 3rd grade public school students to pass a reading test in order to qualify for promotion to the 4th grade. The reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) English Language Arts (ELA) test will determine whether students meet the requirement for promotion. Students who do not meet the promotion requirement on the 3rd Grade MAAP ELA test will be given two retesting opportunities.

2. Test format: Both the 3rd Grade MAAP ELA and the 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment are multiple-choice tests that are given online via a computer or tablet in your child's school. Students will have 180 minutes or 3 hours to complete this test.

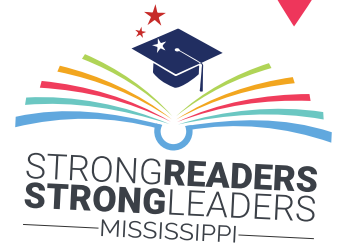
3. Content and skills: Both tests assess the Mississippi College and Career-Readiness Standards of reading for foundational skills, informational text, literature, and language.

4. Testing window dates:

- **April 6–17, 2026:** 3rd Grade MAAP ELA Assessment (initial test)
- **May 11–15, 2026:** 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment (first retest opportunity)
- **June 22–26, 2026:** 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment (second retest opportunity)

5. Test results: Parents and teachers will receive a student report for the reading portion of the 3rd Grade MAAP ELA test before **May 11, 2026**. The report will indicate whether the student meets or does not meet the Literacy-Based Promotion Act promotion requirement. Students who do not meet the promotion requirement will be scheduled for the 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment during the window of **May 11–15, 2026**. Students who do not pass the alternative assessment will be given a final opportunity to retest during the window of **June 22–26, 2026**.

START
HERE.



Why must 3rd grade students pass a reading test to be promoted to the 4th grade?

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act (2013) requires 3rd grade students to demonstrate at the end of the school year that they are ready for 4th grade reading instruction. Research has proven that students who are not reading on grade level at the end of 3rd grade are likely to struggle as they progress in school. Third grade students who do not pass the reading test may qualify for an exemption and be promoted. Ask your child's teacher about "good cause" exemptions.

What should I ask my child's teacher now?

1. Is my child reading grade-level books, stories, poems and articles with fluency and understanding?
2. How is my child performing on the universal screener?
This report provides information about your child's reading progress throughout the school year.
3. What can I do at home to prepare my child for the 3rd Grade MAAP ELA test?

How can I support my child's reading development at home?

- Have your child read aloud.
- Point out any missed words.
- Help your child read missed words correctly.
- Have your child reread the sentence to be sure he/she understands the meaning.
- Create a quiet place for your child to study, do homework, and read.
- Make time to do homework, study, and make reading a part of their daily routine.
- Talk to your child's teacher about his/her progress, tips, and what you can do to help at home.

StrongReadersMS.com gives you the needed resources, activities and information so you can help your children become strong readers and strong leaders.



Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR code to visit **StrongReadersMS.com!**



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