



North Carolina Read to Achieve

Dear Third-Grade Parent,

Beginning January, 2014, North Carolina is implementing a reading portfolio system for third-grade students. This is an opportunity for students to show proficiency in reading over the course of the entire second semester, rather than just a performance on a one-day reading End-of-Grade test (EOG) in the spring. This portfolio process is equitable and uniform for all third-grade students across the state. **All third-grade students in North Carolina are still required to take the EOGs**, however; a completed portfolio can be considered a good cause exemption from retention for those students not showing proficiency on the Reading EOG. Teachers will begin implementing the portfolio process in January. The portfolio has three components:

Component 1 contains assessment data from the mClass Reading 3D assessment system that teachers have been using since the beginning of the school year.

Component 2 contains a Personal Education Plan (PEP). This is an individualized plan for students at risk of academic failure. The PEP contains strategies and interventions teachers are using to help students in the area of reading.

Component 3 contains reading passages based on standards from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study that students have been learning this year.

Your student will work on the reading passages throughout the second semester. His/her teacher will determine which passages to administer based on classroom instruction. In order to have a completed portfolio, Components 1 and 2 must be completed by the teacher and your child must show proficiency on 36 reading passages for Component 3. The number of proficient passages was determined by following the exact guidelines of a portfolio as defined by the Read to Achieve law. The reading passages must be completed independently, are untimed, and may not be completed for homework. The passages should be administered as class assignments and as follow-ups to direct instruction on the reading standards. These reading passages are a way for students to show proficiency and be promoted at the end of third grade with a Good Cause exemption.

We hope this information will be helpful for you. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's school.