



Vermilion Parish School System

3rd Grade Pupil Progression Important Changes

8/8/24

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we begin the 2025-2026 school year, we want to inform you about an important policy affecting third-grade students' promotion to the fourth grade. The Louisiana Legislature has enacted Act 422 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session, which requires that students in traditional public schools must meet specific literacy proficiency standards to be promoted to the fourth grade.

The DIBELS 8th assessment will serve as the literacy screening tool to assess the literacy proficiency of students. DIBELS 8th evaluates various aspects of literacy. The composite score provides a comprehensive measure of the students' literacy abilities.

Third-grade students who achieve a **well below** composite score on the end of year DIBELS 8th literacy screener will not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student meets at least one of the good cause exemptions in Bulletin 1566 (Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures, §701).

- Student is a Limited English Proficient student who has had fewer than two years of instruction in an English Language Learner program.
- Student is a student with a disability whose Individualized Education Program indicates that the screener or assessments provided are not appropriate for the student.
- Student is a student with a disability who participates in such screener or assessments and his Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan reflects that he has received intensive remediation in reading for two years but still demonstrates a deficiency or he was previously retained in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade.
- Student is a student who received intensive intervention in reading for two or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and who was previously retained in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade for a total of two years and has not met exceptional education criteria.
- Student demonstrates an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an alternative standardized assessment approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Additionally, please note that third-grade students must also satisfy the requirements for promotion based on pupil progression, including but not limited to passing grades and attendance.

All third-grade students are administered the DIBELS 8 literacy screener three times within the school year. Results along with suggested at home supports will be sent home after each screening. Students must score within the below level, on-level or above level ranges by the end of the school year to be considered for promotion. Any student that scores well-below on the end of year screener, will be given additional opportunities to demonstrate readiness.

To ensure that every student has a fair opportunity to demonstrate readiness for fourth grade, there are three established assessment opportunities for students:

1. End-of-Year (EOY) benchmark in April
2. Second opportunity at the end of May
3. Third opportunity after optional summer learning program

To support your child in becoming a strong reader, visit the Louisiana Literacy Library. Use your phone to scan the QR code.

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Vermilion Parish School System

