Helping More Students Gain Foundational Reading Skills

December 5, 2023
DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN

“ILLITERACY IS ONE OF THE MOST SOLVABLE Issues of our time. We have the research. We have the practice. We have to do what’s best for our children.”

– Dr. Kymyona Burk, Foundation for Excellence in Education
Defining Key Terms
INDIANA’S IREAD-3 ASSESSMENT

IREAD-3 is an assessment developed in accordance with state legislation that measures foundational reading skills through grade three.

Who Should Participate...

- **Grade two students** whose school *opted in* to administer testing;
- **Grade three students** who did not pass or did not participate in grade two; and
- **Grade four and five students** who have not passed and who have not received a Good Cause Exemption (GCE).

A third-party vendor recently verified IREAD-3 is well-aligned with science of reading.
A Good Cause Exemption (GCE) exempts eligible third grade students from additional IREAD-3 testing requirements after receiving “Did Not Pass” on the assessment.

Students who may qualify for a GCE include:
- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- Identified English learners (ELs); and
- Students who have been retained twice.
CONSIDERING GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTIONS

The decision to grant a GCE should be carefully considered as support and remediation to ensure long-term reading success are implemented.

What reading interventions were implemented so far with the student?

What trends do progress monitoring show for the student?

What other supports does the student receive (e.g., Title, tutoring)?

Does the school implement research-based support systems?
Student Passes IREAD-3

Student Receives Targeted Reading Interventions
- Student Passes IREAD-3 Summer Retest
  - Student Passes IREAD-3
    - Student Promoted to Grade 4

Student Does Not Pass IREAD-3

Student Has Disability & Is Eligible for a GCE
- Student Does Not Pass IREAD-3 Summer Retest
  - Student May Repeat 3rd Grade and Retest Twice
    - Students Retained Twice Are Eligible for a GCE
  - Student Promoted to Grade 4

Student is an English Learner & Is Eligible for a GCE
- Student Does Not Pass IREAD-3 Summer Retest
  - Student Promoted to Grade 4 with Targeted Reading Interventions & Supports
Level-Set: Literacy Data
Indiana’s literacy rates have been dropping for a decade...well before the COVID-19 pandemic. IREAD-3 passage rates peaked at 91% in the 2012-2013 school year.
LITERACY - CURRENT DATA

- Students who pass IREAD-3 by third grade are roughly **35% more likely** to graduate.

- Currently, **nearly one in five** Indiana third grade students is not proficient in key literacy skills.
  - Proficiency rates for students **increased minimally** (0.3 percentage points) in 2023.

- **2022 NAEP Results for Reading**
  - 33% of Indiana fourth graders scored at or above proficiency
  - 31% of eighth graders scored at or above proficiency

- **Achievement gaps persist** for our most at-risk students.
3rd Grade Literacy

Percentage of grade 3 students showing proficiency on IREAD-3.

81.9% 95%

2023 2027
Third Grade Retention: Current Landscape
2023 Statewide Pass Data

- Did Not Pass: 18.1%
- Pass: 81.9%
# DID NOT PASS IREAD-3: GCE OR NOT

## Student Good Cause Exemption Amounts

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NO-GCE: RETAINED OR MOVED ONTO 4TH GRADE

Next Year Grade Level for Non-Exempt Students

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Indiana’s literacy rates have been dropping for a decade, well before the COVID-19 pandemic.

While third grade enrollment has declined since 2012, the number of students who do not pass IREAD-3 has more than doubled since 2012.
Of the approximately 14,000 students who did not pass IREAD-3 in 2023, over 5,500 received a GCE.

- A GCE exempts eligible third grade students from additional IREAD-3 testing after receiving “Did Not Pass” on the assessment. Without future IREAD-3 data for these students, it is unclear at the state-level if they ever learn to read.

Reminder: Students who may qualify for a GCE include:
- Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- Identified English learners (ELs); and
- Students who have been retained twice.
Data show that over 96 percent of students who did not pass IREAD-3 were advanced to fourth grade.

As reading scores have decreased, retention rates have also decreased, causing thousands of students to enter fourth grade unable to read.
Students who do not achieve proficiency on IREAD-3 experience ongoing struggles with text complexity, engagement with research components, and writing skills.

Data indicate that students receiving GCEs consequently demonstrate lower proficiency on subsequent ILEARN assessments.

Overall, students who do not pass IREAD-3 are at risk of not achieving proficiency on future assessments, including ILEARN, and are less likely to graduate.
NEW! DATA VISUALIZATION TOOL

PURPOSE: To better understand where students are today and provide useful information to support educators, parents and families, and community leaders in ensuring all Indiana students can read.

As this tool continues to be developed and improved, over time, it will also help to:

- quantify the number of students in each grade level who are unable to read,
- track the long-term impacts of illiteracy,
- evaluate the impact of the state’s current literacy efforts, and
- inform ongoing policy decisions.
Proactively Targeting K-2
HISTORIC LITERACY INVESTMENT

Announced August 2022
$60 million from Lilly Endowment to IDOE +
$26 million from IDOE (ESSER II) +
Up to $25 million from Lilly Endowment to teacher prep programs
= $111 million combined investment

Goal: Achieve a passage rate of 95% on IREAD-3 by 2027.

....Plus an additional $60 million during the 2023 legislative session, increasing the state’s historic literacy investment to over $170 MILLION!
HOW TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

How this investment is being used to positively impact students:

● Schools may join the Indiana Literacy Cadre where educators at participating schools can receive free instructional coaching in science of reading.

● Eligible parents may access Indiana Learns which provides additional learning support and tutoring at no cost.
Parents may join the new Parent and Family Support Hub on the Indiana Learning Lab, providing free, 24/7 access to resources to support student learning.

Educators may complete IDOE’s science of reading modules, developed in partnership with Marian University, through the Indiana Learning Lab. Eligible teachers can also earn a $1,200 stipend by completing the modules.
HOW TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION CONTINUED

- Schools may administer **IREAD-3 at Grade 2** to gain access to an early “On Track indicator” for parents/families and teachers to determine if students will master foundational reading skills by the end of grade three.

- Schools may receive targeted support through a **Literacy Support Plan**, specifically designed for Indiana schools falling below 70% IREAD-3 passage.
Teachers may earn incentives for improving IREAD-3 scores through Indiana’s Literacy Achievement Grants (awards to be announced in December).

Schools continue to utilize IDOE’s Science of Reading Grant funding to support science of reading implementation through instructional coaching, curriculum, and professional development.
Higher Education Educator Preparation Programs

- All higher education educator preparation programs are required to embed science of reading into their curriculum.

- All EPPs must also prepare future educators to obtain a literacy endorsement (IC 20-28-5-19.7).

- Indiana educators first licensed after June 30, 2025, in the areas of early childhood, elementary generalist, and special education are required to obtain the new literacy endorsement.
Current teachers can pursue the science of reading-focused literacy endorsement at no cost!

Future teachers can pursue the science of reading-focused EPP Literacy Endorsement PD Grant.

High-quality curricular materials list aligned to science of reading.

Dyslexia modules available to all educators.
THANK YOU!