

Facts for Families:

What is a Good Cause Exemption Process?

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A specific reason within the law for a child to be promoted to 4th grade.

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Read by Grade Three Law that requires schools to identify and support students in grades Kindergarten through third grade who are struggling with reading and writing. The law states that third graders may be retained if they are more than one grade level behind at the end of the 2019-20 school year. This document explains what the law calls a **Good Cause Exemption**.

Who can ask for a Good Cause Exemption?

- A parent or guardian of a third grader.
- The third grade teacher.
- The Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Coordinator.

When do I apply for a Good Cause Exemption?

Within 30 days of being notified that your child may be retained.

What does the law offer as a Good Cause Exemption?

If a child has:

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- A Section 504 Plan
- Limited English with less than three years of instruction in an English Language Learner (EL) Program.
- Received intensive reading intervention for 2 or more years, and was retained in kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade.
- Been enrolled in their current school for less than two years and there is evidence that your child was not provided with an appropriate individual reading improvement plan (IRIP).

Or the child's parent or legal guardian has requested, in the appropriate timeframe:

- The child not be retained, and the superintendent, chief administrator, or his or her designee has determined that promotion is in the best interest of the child.

How do I request a Good Cause Exemption?

Contact the school where your child will be attending 4th grade and ask about their Good Cause Exemption Process.

What happens when I request a Good Cause Exemption?

The superintendent, or their designee, will review the request and make the final decision **at least 30 days** before the first day of school. This decision is final.



What support will my child get if they are retained in 3rd grade? AND What support will my child get if they are promoted to the 4th grade?

- Your child will receive appropriate reading support at school.
- You and your child may be provided with a "Read at Home" plan with activities to help your child at home.

