


PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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November 22, 2019

TO LEA Superintendents
Charter School Directors

FROM David Stegall, Deputy Superintendent
Office of Deputy Superintendent of Innovation 

Tammy L. Howard, Director 
Division of Accountability Services

READ TO ACHIEVE UPDATE

The new North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* for English Language Arts/Reading was adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2017. As required, new reading end-of-grade (EOG) tests and English II end-of-course (EOC) tests, aligned to these standards, will be administered operationally for the first time in the 2019–20 school year. When new tests are administered for the first time, student scores are delayed while the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) processes the test data and completes all necessary analyses, including the setting of academic achievement levels. These processes and analyses will take place during summer 2020. Due to the necessity of this critical process, in the 2019–20 school year students will not receive test scores at the completion of the test administrations. Instead, the reporting of scores for these tests will be delayed until August 2020.

With the delayed scoring due to standard setting of the new tests, it is necessary to have a transition year for the Grade 3 Reading EOG and the Read to Achieve (RtA) program. To ensure the continuation of Read to Achieve, for the 2019–20 school year the current academic achievement standards will be applied to the new reading end-of-grade assessment administered in spring 2020. These results will also be used for third grade accountability data.

This will support the following:

1. The use of the Beginning-of-Grade Reading Test in accountability for calculating achievement and growth for School Performance Grades.
2. The continued use of a Lexile Level of 725 for meeting Read to Achieve on State Board approved locally administered benchmark assessments.
3. The reporting of a Grade 3 Reading EOG scale score to determine additional assessment opportunities and/or reading camp eligibility per Read to Achieve requirements.

With this transition plan for Read to Achieve for the 2019–20 school year, parents and teachers will continue to have the needed information to ensure their students have opportunities to become proficient readers by the end of the third grade. It will be noted on relevant reports that the 2019–20 school year was a transition year for Read to Achieve. In the 2020–21 school year,

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the grade three assessments will be reported using the new academic achievement standards which will be recommended to the State Board of Education in August 2020.

As always, thank you for all you do for our schools. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding information contained within this memo, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC).

DS:TLH;jlk

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