

Teacher Credential Fact Sheet Third Grade Reading Guarantee

With the recent passage of House Bill 555, new credentials are required for any teacher providing the daily reading instruction for students affected by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This applies to teachers in grade three for the 2013-14 school year and for teachers in kindergarten through grade three beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Students affected by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee are:

- Identified as not on-track according to the September 30 reading diagnostic results and on a reading improvement and monitoring plan; or
- Retained by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

The following chart provides guidance on which professionals must hold the credentials:

| Requires Third Grade Guarantee Teaching Credentials | Does <u>Not</u> Require Third Grade Guarantee Teaching Credentials |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers – The primary teacher responsible for the affected student’s reading education (“Assigned Teacher”). Typically, this will be the teacher determining the student’s grade for reading. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers – Teachers without the credentials can provide the reading instruction to students who are not affected by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. These teachers can also provide non-reading instruction to students who are affected by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention Specialists – Only if they provide a portion or all of an affected student’s reading instruction without co-teaching with a teacher that has the required credentials. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention Specialists – Only if they are co-teaching with a teacher that has the required credentials. Intervention Specialists providing interventions outside of the student’s reading curriculum are not required to have these credentials. |

For those teachers that are required to have credentialing for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, the law now provides four different options to meet the new requirement. A teacher must be actively engaged in the reading instruction of students for the previous three years **and** have at least one of the credentialing options list in the table on the following page. Please note that there are differences between the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years.

| Credential Options | |
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| 2013-14 <i>*For third grade only</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reading endorsement (K-12) on their teacher's license and a passing score on the corresponding assessment for that endorsement; 2. A master's degree with the word "reading" or "literacy" in the degree name or on the transcript as the major area of study, specialization, or concentration; 3. A rating of "above value-added" for the last two school years; or 4. A credential from a program on the ODE approved list of scientifically research-based reading instruction programs, to be released in spring 2013. |
| 2014-15 and Beyond <i>*For grades K-3</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reading endorsement (K-12) on their teacher's license and a passing score on the corresponding assessment for that endorsement; 2. A master's degree with the word "reading" or "literacy" in the degree name or on the transcript as the major area of study, specialization, or concentration; 3. A rating of "above value-added" for the last two school years; or 4. A passing score on a rigorous test of principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction, to be approved by the State Board of Education in fall 2013. |

If a district does not have a sufficient number of qualified teachers to fulfill the requirements for the 2013-14 school year, the district can submit a plan to ODE outlining how the district will match the best reading teachers to the students who need them the most. This plan must also detail how they intend to provide the required staff beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Plans must be submitted by June 30, 2013 and will be approved or rejected by August 15, 2013.

To find more information about teacher credentials and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee in general, please visit ODE's [Third Grade Reading Guarantee Page](#). On that page you will find a special document with detailed guidance on teacher credentials and a general policy guidance document for the entire Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Please note that the information in this document supersedes any other statements. If you have any questions, please email: thirdgradequarantee@education.ohio.gov.