

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT REPEALING THE RETENTION PROVISION OF THE THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE The State Board of Education (“Board”) APPROVES the following legislative recommendation to the General Assembly:

Reading is the keystone of academic achievement and future success. It is imperative that every Ohio student read at grade-level. Measuring progress towards this goal is essential.

In recent years, less than half of Ohio’s third grade students scored at a proficient level on Ohio’s State Tests, and Ohio saw significant decreases in literacy achievement during 2020-2021.

The Board remains resolutely committed to addressing this statewide literacy crisis for the sake of each student and for the future of our state.

Such a task requires honing what works and discarding what does not. When state mandates are employed, they, like all school improvement initiatives, should be subject to ongoing analysis measuring their success or failure over time.

Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.608 prohibits, with limited exceptions, promoting to fourth grade any student who does not meet a minimum score on the third-grade English language arts assessment.

As reflected in the chart attached to this resolution, between 2013 and 2019 an average of merely 15% of retained third graders attained proficiency on their third grade English Language Arts assessment retake each year, and of those retained, proficiency continued to decrease in subsequent grades.

As the results show, mandating third grade retention has not achieved the desired result.

The Board also believes in the value of local control and in the right of parents to be actively involved in the education of their child. Repealing the retention provision of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee will enable parents to be more involved in making retention decisions for their child.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board recommends to the General Assembly the repeal of the retention provision under ORC 3313.608 in conjunction with a priority in the allocation of adequate resources and supports, as outlined in the Ohio Department of Education budget submission on October 12, 2022, including the establishment of adequate interventions, transparency, accountability and parent notifications needed to support struggling readers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs the Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare correspondence, subject to the approval of the President of the Board, to the Primary and Secondary Education Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Primary and Secondary Education Committee of the Ohio Senate containing the recommendation approved herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Interim Superintendent submit the recommendation to the aforementioned committees of the General Assembly and take appropriate action to advocate for its adoption.

In conjunction with the allocation of adequate resources, supports, interventions, transparency, accountability, and parent notifications are in place to support struggling readers.