

Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Assigning Teachers to Third-Grade Students Retained in a Grade 3-4 Split Classroom

The guidance below will assist districts in assigning teachers to students who will be placed in a Grade 3-4 split classroom who are retained in third grade under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This guidance addresses the current licensure structure that places Early Childhood educators (pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3) and Middle Childhood teachers (Grades 4-9) in different categories with different requirements.

Districts may meet the teacher assignment requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law by following one of the below options.

1. Assign a Kindergarten through Grade 8 or Grade 1-8 licensed teacher, who may provide instruction in all subjects. This teacher also must meet the reading qualifications required under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law.
2. Assign a teacher licensed for Pre-K through Grade 3 who also holds the Early Childhood Generalist Grades 4-5 endorsement. This requires approximately nine semester hours and related content assessments. This teacher, who may provide instruction in all subjects, must meet the reading qualifications required under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law.
3. Request a supplemental license for a teacher to give him or her time to pursue the Grades 4-5 endorsement, which requires approximately nine semester hours and assessments in related content. This teacher, who may provide instruction in all subjects, must meet the reading qualifications required under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law.

TEACHERS OF SPLIT GRADE 3-4 CLASSES IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS ARE FOURTH-GRADERS:

4. Assign a fourth-grade teacher who is licensed in Middle Childhood education with English language arts certification. This teacher also must meet the reading qualifications required under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee law. This teacher may provide instruction only in English language arts and the second subject in which he or she is licensed, if applicable.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER STATUS

The Ohio Department of Education is providing Educational Management Information System (EMIS) codes for the above options. The codes, in conjunction with the Ohio Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Toolkit, will identify that these teachers meet the highly qualified teacher requirements.

The two course codes in EMIS for two subject areas are: Grades 3-4 Reading, 050103; and Grades 3-4 Integrated English Language Arts, 050153. The EMIS manual includes these codes.