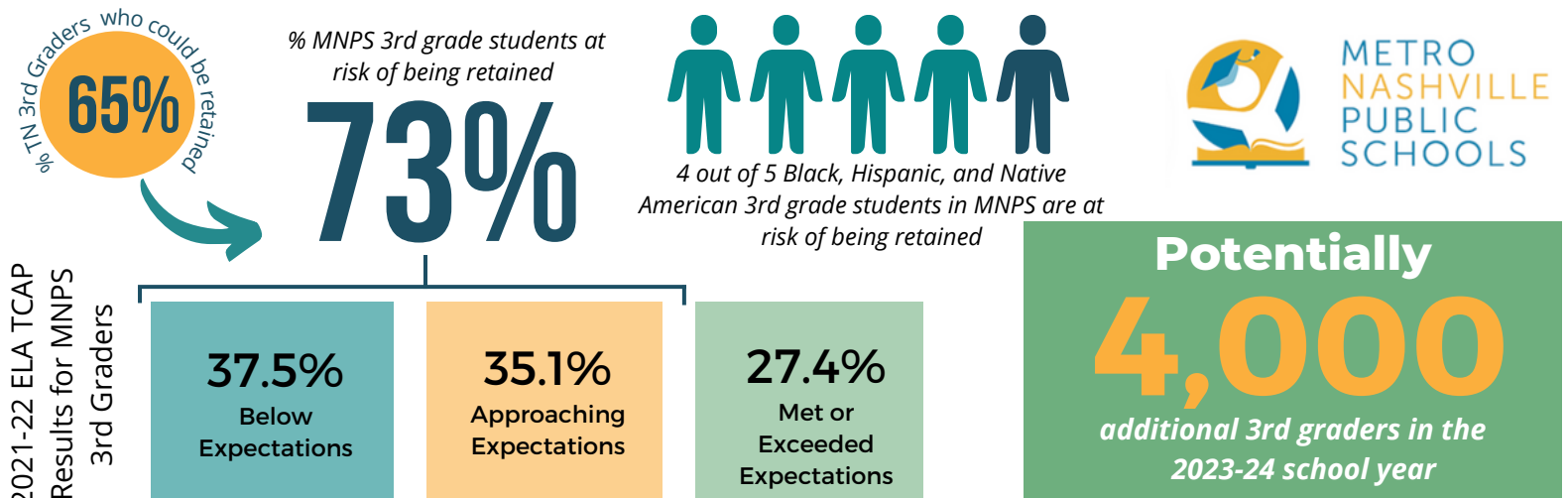


# What is the 3rd Grade Retention Law?

**In 2021, the Tennessee Legislature passed a law that requires 3rd grade students who are not meeting expectations in English/Language Arts to be retained unless certain requirements are met. Students in 3rd grade in the 2022-23 school year will be the first students affected by the law.**

## What could be the impact on MNPS?



## How can MNPS students at risk of retention be promoted?

Retake the test and are proficient or above	<b>OR</b>	<p><u>For students scoring "below"</u></p> <p>Attend summer learning camp with 90% attendance and demonstrate adequate growth <b>AND</b> be assigned a TN All Corps tutor for 4th grade</p>	<b>OR</b>	<p><u>For students scoring "approaching"</u></p> <p>Attend summer learning camp with 90% attendance and demonstrate adequate growth <b>OR</b> be assigned a TN All Corps tutor for 4th grade</p>	<p>Appeal to the State Board with evidence of growth and/or catastrophic event</p> <p>(only for students scoring "approaching")</p>
---	-----------	---	-----------	--	---

Exceptions that allow for promotion no matter the TCAP score:

- 1 An English Learner who has had less than 2 years of ELA instruction
- 2 A student who was previously retained in any grade K-3
- 3 A student who has a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading

Source: TDOE FAQ on the Promotion and Retention of 3rd Grade Students

## What can we learn from other states?

<p><b>Florida</b></p> <p>Florida's 3rd grade reading retention law was paired with significant financial investment.</p> <p><b>Students who are retained must:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete summer school</li> <li>Have an academic improvement plan</li> <li>Have a highly effective teacher the following year</li> </ul> <p>Students retained under Florida's policy have seen short term academic gains that fade after six years.</p>	<p><b>Louisiana</b></p> <p>After Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana required students who scored "Below Basic" in reading to be retained.</p> <p><b>40%</b> of students in New Orleans were retained at least once</p> <p>1 out of 3 K-12 students were retained for at least 1 grade</p> <p>Because so many students were retained, retention decisions were returned to districts in 2018.</p>	<p><b>Mississippi</b></p> <p>In 2013, the state passed a 3rd grade retention law with retention serving as last resort.</p> <p><b>Investments and Interventions Required under the Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investments in tools and resources for teachers</li> <li>Universal reading screeners and summer reading camps for students</li> </ul> <p>After 5 years, the retention law changed to require students to show growth rather than score above the lowest proficiency level.</p>
---	--	--

## What do we know about the effects of retention laws?

<p><b>Academic Impact</b></p> <p>Research is mixed on the academic effects of retention laws. On average, retained students experience short-term gains, but over time those gains fade out.</p>	<p><b>Equity</b></p> <p>Retention policies disproportionately affect students of color and English learners.</p>	<p><b>Social-Emotional Needs</b></p> <p>Students who are retained are more likely to be bullied or engage in bullying and are more likely to be held to lower expectations.</p>
--	--	---

Sources: Schwerdt et al (2017); Allen, Chen, Willson, & Hughes (2010); Weiss et al (2018); Tingle, Schoeneberger, and Algozzine (2012); Moser, West, and Hughes (2012); Crothers et al (2010)