



"Every student will excel, both personally and for the benefit of humanity."

495 East Huron BLVD • Marysville, MI 48040 • OFFICE: 810.364.7731 • FAX: 810.364.3150

March 2, 2020

Dear 3rd Grade Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Your child will soon take the Michigan State Test for Educational Progress (M-STEP). State law requires all 3rd grade students to score above 1252 in reading/English Language Arts (ELA) in order to advance to 4th grade. The district has been working with all of our lower primary students throughout elementary on their reading growth; your engagement also plays a crucial role in their success.

What can you do?

To help prepare for this upcoming assessment:

1. Have your child go through the M-STEP practice tests online for both ELA and math. You can find these practice tests at <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi>.
2. Be sure your child is reading 20-40 minutes each night.
3. Have your child keep a journal to practice their writing skills.
4. Stay in close contact with your child's teacher about their reading progress.

What happens if your child's reading/ELA score is not proficient on the state assessment?

The State of Michigan will send parents/guardians a letter stating that their child is at risk of being retained in 3rd grade. If you receive this letter from the State of Michigan, you have the right to request an appeal to my office.

How can you request an appeal?

If you don't believe that your child should be retained in 3rd grade, you will need to make a request in writing. Please be sure to explain if one or more of the following "good cause exemptions" qualifies your child for an appeal:

- My child has an IEP/504 plan.
- My child is limited in English.
- My child received intensive reading intervention for two or more years, but still demonstrates a reading deficiency and was previously retained in kindergarten, first, second, or third grade.
- My child attended a Young 5's program.
- My child has been enrolled in the district for less than two years and there is evidence that my child wasn't provided with an appropriate Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP).
- My child has demonstrated proficiency in math on the state assessment and has demonstrated proficiency in science and social studies as shown through a pupil portfolio as determined by their third-grade teacher.

All requests should be sent to my office at 495 E Huron BLVD, Marysville, MI 48040, or emailed to me at swightman@marysvilleschools.k12.mi.us. Your request must be sent to my office within 30 days of the notification date from the State of Michigan. I'll respond with next steps for you and your child within 10 days of receiving your appeal request.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter or this process, please feel free to contact your child's building principal or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shawn K. Wightman".
SUPERINTENDENT
Marysville Public Schools