



# Banks Elementary School

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Principal: Melissa Lynch

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[www.lenoir.k12.nc.us/banks/](http://www.lenoir.k12.nc.us/banks/)

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September 7, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your child begins third grade, you will see a concentrated focus in ensuring that he or she can read at or above grade level and progress in reading proficiency so that he or she can read, comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for secondary education and career success. As part of the Read to Achieve law (G.S. §115C-83.1) passed by the General Assembly in 2012, your child will take the Beginning-of-Grade 3 (BOG3) English Language Arts/Reading Test to establish a baseline measure of how he or she is reading. This test will be administered on **September 13, 2017**. The majority of beginning third-grade students are not expected to demonstrate third-grade reading proficiency (score a Level 3, 4, or 5) on the BOG3 Test because they have not yet receive third-grade reading instruction. However, if your child scores achievement level 3 or higher on the BOG3 Test, his or her score satisfies the promotion requirements of the Read to Achieve Legislation. Following the BOG3 Test administration, you will receive an individual student report with your child's score. As you review the report, make notes about your child's test score and other questions you may have. Be sure to discuss your questions with your child's teacher when you attend a parent-teacher-student conference.

At the end of third grade, your child will take the End-of-Grade (EOG) tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics. Read to Achieve has procedures in place for third graders who do not score at a proficient level on the BOG3 or EOG tests in English Language Arts/Reading:

1. Your child will have the opportunity to take the Grade 3 End-of-Grade English Language Arts/Reading Retest, the Read to Achieve alternative test, or the local alternative test. These tests provide your child with other opportunities to demonstrate proficiency.
2. If your child is not proficient on the retest, the Read to Achieve alternative test, or the local alternative test, he or she has the option to attend a reading camp to help improve his or her reading skills. This camp is at no charge to you. Your local school district will organize the camp and give you more information about when and where it will be held.
3. At the end of reading camp, your child may achieve reading proficiency by passing the Read to Achieve alternative test, having a completed student reading portfolio, or by passing the local alternative test approved by the State Board of Education. If he or she shows proficiency, your child is eligible to be promoted to fourth grade. Students who do not attend the reading camp are still provided the opportunity to take the Read to Achieve alternative test or the local alternative test on a designated day following the completion of the reading camp.
4. If your child does not achieve proficiency at the end of reading camp, he or she can be retained in third- grade, placed in a 3/4 transitional class with a retained reading label, or placed in a fourth grade accelerated reading class with a retained reading label. Ninety minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction is provided daily in these classes. Children in the 3/4 transition classes or fourth grade accelerated classes are eligible to retake the Read to Achieve alternative assessment again in late October to achieve a mid-year promotion and to have the retained reading label removed. He/she will remain in the same fourth-grade class for the entire school year and will continue to receive the uninterrupted reading instruction throughout fourth grade to support ongoing improvement in reading skills. Non-proficient students may continue to work on completing a portfolio or passing a local

## Title IX

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alternative test after November 1 to show proficiency by the end of the fourth-grade year and have the retained reading label removed.

If you have questions or concerns about the Read to Achieve law, please contact Wendy Piro/[wpiro@lenoir.k12.nc.us](mailto:wpiro@lenoir.k12.nc.us)/ 252-527-9470. The staff of Banks Elementary School looks forward to a new school year and helping all students become better readers by the end of third grade.

Sincerely,

Wendy Piro  
NCLA Principal Resident, NC State University  
Testing Coordinator  
Banks Elementary School

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