

From: Smith, Kevin
Sent time: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 9:16:13 AM
To: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>
Subject: RE: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Cari,

Thanks so much for your quick response. I agree with you on all counts and will respond as noted. This confirms my thoughts.

Have a great day and thanks again for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,
Educational Policy Analyst,
Just Read, Florida! Office
Florida Department of Education
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From: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) [mailto:Cari@excelined.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 9:14 AM
To: Smith, Kevin
Subject: RE: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Probably not; rule does say locally determined standardized assessment, and I believe DAR is standardized, but it doesn't really assess our state standards, and students have to demonstrate proficiency on beginning of the year 4th grade standards. You could possibly hang your hat on this. If St. Lucie is uncomfortable with it, they should revisit their student progression plan and ensure it states what they will do for student transferring in.

From: Smith, Kevin [mailto:Kevin.Smith@fldoe.org]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 9:11 AM
To: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)
Subject: RE: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Cari,

Thanks for your message. I agree that Outcome measures like SAT10 or Terra Nova would work.

In this particular case, the student transferred in to St. Lucie from another district and it was noted that the DAR was used to determine mid-year promotion in the previous district. The new district (St. Lucie) does not feel that the DAR would be an appropriate assessment to use for this purpose, and I can understand their concerns. Is there anything that has been sent to districts (or anything in rule or statute), that you are aware of, that would prevent a district from using the DAR for mid-year promotion?

Have a great day and thanks again for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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From: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) [<mailto:Cari@excelined.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 8:30 AM

To: Smith, Kevin

Subject: RE: 3rd grade good cause promotion

An Outcome like SAT10, Terra Nova, etc. would be assessments that could be selected by the district for mid-year promotion purposes.

From: Smith, Kevin [<mailto:Kevin.Smith@fldoe.org>]

Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 12:02 PM

To: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org)

Subject: FW: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Cari,

Please see below. I have my thoughts on this, but I want to determine if there is any protocol/rule that would provide further guidance and also gather your thoughts.

You are definitely still an honorary member of the team! ☺

Have a great afternoon and thanks again for all that you do...

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

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From: GILLARD, ANNA M. [<mailto:Michelle.Gillard@stlucieschools.org>]

Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 10:56 AM

To: Smith, Kevin

Subject: RE: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Thanks very much. So, for the locally selected instrument—I assume that standardized means standardized test (i.e. SAT10, TerraNova). Is that correct? The instrument in question (DAR) is not standardized.

Michelle Gillard, PhD, NCSP

Program Evaluator/Data Analyst

The School Board of Saint Lucie County

Department of Assessment & Accountability

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From: Smith, Kevin [<mailto:Kevin.Smith@fldoe.org>]

Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 10:23 AM

To: GILLARD, ANNA M.

Subject: RE: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Good Morning,

Thank you for your message. I am attaching the Technical Assistance Paper on 3rd Grade Progression. Some of the responses to the questions in this document will provide assistance in answering your question.

C-2. What alternative assessment may be administered at the end of the year OR at the end of Summer Reading Camp to determine if a student qualifies for good cause exemption and promotion to fourth grade?

Rule 6A-1.094221, F.A.C., (1)(a) authorizes the use of the following nationally norm-referenced test in the determination of a good cause exemption for promotion to fourth grade:

- Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT 10)
- Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (SAT 9) may still be administered this year, however, starting in the 2011-2012 school year it will no longer be an acceptable assessment to use for the alternative assessment for third grade progression.

The rule also provides that a district may request to use a different standardized reading assessment following the procedures outlined in the *Technical Assistance Paper SBE 6A-1.094221: Alternative Standardized Reading Assessment and Use of Student Portfolio for Good Cause Promotion*. At this time, three other standardized alternative assessments have been approved by the Department as a result of a district review request; and would therefore also be approved for district use.

- Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) Complete Battery, Form A or C, Level 9, Reading Comprehension
- Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) Core Battery, Form A or C, Level 9, Reading Comprehension
- Terranova, Third Edition Complete Battery, Level 13, Reading

The acceptable levels of performance on the alternative assessments for grade 3 for the 2009-2010 school year are:

- To promote a student using the SAT 10 as an alternative assessment for good cause exemption, the Grade 3 students scoring a Level 1 on the Reading FCAT 2.0 must score at or above the 45th percentile.
- For districts choosing to use the SAT 9 as the alternative assessment, the cut score is at or above the 51st percentile.
- For districts choosing to use the ITBS or Terranova, the cut score is at or above the 50th percentile.

F-1. What are the guidelines/requirements for mid-year promotion?

To be eligible for mid-year promotion after November 1, a student must demonstrate mastery of reading skills consistent with the month of promotion to fourth grade as presented in the scope and sequence of the school district's core reading program [Rule 6A-1.094222, F.A.C.]. Evidence of demonstrated mastery is as follows:

- Successful completion of portfolio elements that meet state criteria; **or**
- **Satisfactory performance on a locally-selected standardized assessment.**

To promote a student mid-year using a student portfolio, there must be evidence of the student's mastery of third grade Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks for Language Arts and beginning mastery of the benchmarks for fourth grade. The student portfolio must meet the following requirements:

- Be selected by the student's teacher;
- Be an accurate picture of the student's ability and include only student work that has been independently produced in the classroom;
- Include evidence of mastery of the benchmarks assessed by the grade 3 FCAT 2.0 Reading assessment;
- Include evidence of beginning mastery of fourth grade benchmarks that are assessed by the grade 4 Reading FCAT 2.0. This includes multiple choice items and passages that are approximately fifty (50) percent literary text and fifty (50) percent information text, and that are between 100-900 words with an average of 500 words. Such evidence could include chapter or unit tests from the district's/school's adopted core reading curriculum or teacher-prepared assessments that are aligned with the Sunshine State Standards. For each benchmark, there must be two (2) examples of mastery as demonstrated by a grade of "70%" or better; and
- Be signed by the teacher and the principal as an accurate assessment of the required reading skills.

To promote a student mid-year using a locally-selected standardized assessment, there must be evidence that the student scored at or above grade level in reading comprehension, as demonstrated by standard scores or percentiles, consistent with the month of promotion to fourth grade.

Please let me know if this information is beneficial and if you have any additional questions.

Have a great day and thanks for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith,

Educational Policy Analyst,

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From: GILLARD, ANNA M. [<mailto:Michelle.Gillard@stlucieschools.org>]

Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2011 4:07 PM

To: Smith, Kevin

Subject: 3rd grade good cause promotion

Good afternoon,

I was told to contact you regarding good cause promotion for 3rd graders. I have been asked to find out if there is a list available of tests, other than the SAT10, that have been approved for use as an alternate measure for 3rd grade promotion. Does any such list exist? If not, can you tell me if the DAR has been approved for this purpose? A student has entered one of our schools after transferring from another school and the documentation provided indicates that the DAR was used to promote the student to the 4th grade (the student earned a Level 1 on FCAT in 3rd grade).

Thanks!

Michelle Gillard, PhD, NCSP

Program Evaluator/Data Analyst

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