Renaissance Star Assessments® Support the Ohio Reading Guarantee

Overview

Renaissance Star Early Literacy® and Renaissance Star Reading® are approved as Diagnostic Assessments, also known as screeners, by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Ohio educators can use these assessments to determine if K–3 students are on track or not on track for reading at grade level.

The Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment is also approved by the ODE. This test is an alternative reading assessment that enables students to “demonstrate an acceptable level of reading performance for promotion to fourth grade.”

On track, not on track

Star Early Literacy and Star Reading can be used as Diagnostic Assessments (aka screeners) to determine if students are on track or not on track for reading at grade level. Students scoring below the 25th percentile rank (in the yellow and red, as shown to the right) are considered not on track. These students are eligible for a Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan (RIMP).

Add an additional benchmark to the Star screening reports

The Ohio State Board of Education has established that students must achieve a minimum score of 45 on the third-grade reading subtest of the Ohio State Test (OST) in order to be promoted to fourth grade.

According to Renaissance’s equating study, a 45 on Ohio’s OST reading subtest is equivalent to 941 (28th percentile rank) on the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment. For rounding purposes, we can consider this to be the 30th percentile rank.

To help Ohio educators identify both students who are “not on track” and students who are “on watch” for not passing the third-grade assessment, Renaissance suggests adding a benchmark of 30th percentile rank to the Star Early Literacy and Star Reading reports for Kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade (see above). This new benchmark group will become your new blue “On Watch” group, representing the students scoring from the 26th-30th percentile. In addition to supporting students in the yellow “Intervention” and red “Urgent Intervention” groups, students who are in the blue may also need support to pass the third-grade assessment. For information on adding benchmarks, see page 3.

1 http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-District-Resources/Third-Grade-Alternative-Reading-Assessments
2 http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R60626.pdf
With the addition of an extra benchmark category, students who score in the light green, between the 31\textsuperscript{th}-39\textsuperscript{th} percentile, are on track for passing the third-grade assessment. Students scoring in the darker green, at or above the 40\textsuperscript{th} percentile, are at or above the default benchmark of the 40\textsuperscript{th} percentile rank.

**Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment**

The table below includes the Star Reading and Star Early Literacy Enterprise scaled scores (the scores you use now) that correspond to the 28\textsuperscript{th} percentile at various points in the school year alongside the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment’s Unified scale scores that also correspond to the 28\textsuperscript{th} percentile. Students who meet or exceed these scores in Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade are performing at a level that suggests they are likely to reach or exceed 941 on the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment in third grade.

### Milestones for Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment

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<th>September Unified Scale</th>
<th>November Enterprise Scale</th>
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**Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment promotion score = 941**

If a student reaches or exceeds a score of 941 on the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment during the 2018–2019 school year, the student can be promoted to fourth grade.
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I change my benchmarks in the Star software?
• For information on changing from four to five benchmark categories in the software, click here: https://help.renaissance.com/SR/Edit_School_Benchmark_Structure

• For information on adding the 30th percentile rank (PR) to the benchmarks, click here: https://help.renaissance.com/SR/Edit_School_Cut_Scores

What is the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment?
The Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment is a 50-item computer adaptive test built specifically to assess third-grade reading proficiency. The assessment takes about 40-45 minutes to complete, on average. It can be administered up to three times in one year (during the school year and once in the summer).

The Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment has been approved by ODE as an Alternative Reading Assessment for the Ohio Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This means third grade students can take this assessment to demonstrate an acceptable level of reading performance for promotion to the fourth grade.

When can the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment be administered?
According to the Ohio Department of Education, districts may administer the Ohio Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment twice during the school year and once during the summer to mimic Ohio’s grade 3 English language arts test administration. Districts and schools should set dates for the administration of these assessments. For more information, please see the most recent Third Grade Guarantee Guidance Manual on ODE’s website.

How do I access the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment?
Students and educators access the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment through Renaissance Home®

What is the cost of the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency?
The Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment is included with purchase of Star Reading or Star 360®.

Where can I find more information about how the Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment relates to the OST reading subtest?
Please see Relating Star Reading to Reading Scores on the Grade 3 Ohio State Test.

Where can I find more information about ODE’s policies on the 2017 and 2018 proficiency scores?
According to ODE’s website: “Updated linking studies for NWEA Map and Renaissance Learning STAR have resulted in lower promotion scores for school year 2018-2019 than in school year 2017-2018. In order to avoid retaining a third grade student who would now meet the updated promotion scores for either of these two vendors, the Department will not object if your district chooses to now use the lower 2018-2019 promotion score for either of these vendors for the promotion of students who were in grade 3 during the 2017-2018 school year PROVIDED the district accurately updates the relevant promotion information in EMIS prior to August 30, 2018 if the district chooses to make a change in a student’s promotion status.

This guidance does not apply to Terra Nova 3 and Iowa Assessments that have not completed their linking studies at this time. Once their linking studies are received, ODE will post the updated promotion scores and districts may review the score under their mid-year promotion policy.”
How is it possible that ODE’s promotion score went up from 44 to 45 and the promotion score for the alternative assessments (Star and NWEA) went down?

According to ODE’s website: “Updated linking studies for NWEA Map and Renaissance Learning STAR have resulted in lower promotion scores for school year 2018-2019 than in school year 2017-2018.” This was due to changes in the state test and norms over the past several years.

Please note that the change in the reading subscore from 44 to 45 is connected to the Ohio law requiring the ELA score to increase each year until it reaches proficiency.

What is the Enterprise scale? What is the Unified scale?

The “Enterprise scale” is the scale Star Reading and Star Early Literacy have always used. Star Reading’s Enterprise scale is 0-1400. Star Early Literacy’s Enterprise scale is 300-900. The Star Reading Third Grade Proficiency Assessment reports scores on the new Unified scale. Since the 2017–2018 school year, Star Early Literacy and Star Reading can also report scores on the Unified scale, which has a 200 to 1400-point scale.