



720 days...

READING IS UNDERSTANDING

READ TO ACHIEVE

The Read to Achieve program is part of the Excellent Public Schools Act, which became law in July of 2012.

- **Goal:** to ensure that every student read at or above grade level by the end of third grade
- **720:** number of days a child has between the first day of kindergarten and the end of third grade
- **It's not just a third grade law.** Appropriate interventions and focused instruction begin in kindergarten and continue throughout the 720 days.

Children need mastery of reading foundational skills to be able to succeed in other content areas.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

Read to Achieve:

- Offers positive supports for all children;
- Identifies strengths and weaknesses in reading for every child as early as possible;
- Focuses on individualized instruction;
- Requires research-based literacy instruction for all children;
- Emphasizes the importance of solid foundational reading skills to ensure deep comprehension of stories and text; and
- Continuously informs parents/guardians of a student's academic needs and progress.

Research shows:

- Third grade reading assessments are early predictors of a student's long term academic achievement;
- Third grade reading scores are a leading indicator of high school graduation rates; and
- Struggling readers are at a far greater risk of dropping out of school.

Read to Achieve opportunities include:

- Reading camps to continue development of literacy skills;
- Multiple ways to show reading proficiency;
- Uninterrupted instructional blocks of reading time;
- Reading classes taught by highly qualified teachers; and
- Intensive interventions giving children additional instructional time to achieve grade level goals.

Teachers are:

- Identifying strengths and weaknesses in reading;
- Focusing instruction to meet student needs;
- Continually adjusting instruction;
- Using small groups to individualize instruction; and
- Promoting language and communication skills along with reading.

Parents can:

- Read every night with your child;
- Reinforce and review school work;
- Have conversations to build vocabulary and language and communication; and
- Expose children to a variety of content areas.

Additional Read to Achieve Information:

- NC Read to Achieve LiveBinder for Parents: <http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1326906>
- NCDPI's K-3 Literacy website: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/k-3literacy/>