Florida’s Comprehensive K-3 Literacy Policy
In Florida

Intensive reading intervention happens K-3

Retention is a last resort

Retention means more intensive intervention
What We Knew in 2002

**75%** of students reading poorly at age 9 **continue to be struggling readers as adults.**

**80%** of kids identified with a Specific Learning Disability are struggling readers, **simply because they haven't learned how to read.**
Florida’s K-3 Policy

- **Early Literacy screening**, grades K-3

- **Parent notification** for any K-3 student identified with a reading deficiency

- **Individual reading plans**, in collaboration with the parent, prescribing interventions to remove that deficiency

- 3rd graders scoring at the **lowest level** on the state test are **retained** unless they meet a good cause exemption.

- Retention with **more intensive interventions** and a different course of action
A Command Focus on Reading

Percent of Third Graders Scoring at the Lowest Level
Who were Not Promoted
2001-2012

First year of Policy

FCAT 2.0 (More Rigorous Test)

Increased Proficiency Standard

Percent of 3rd Graders at lowest level on Reading FCAT
Percent of 3rd graders retained
Percent Referred for Special Education Services: Good Instruction Matters

- First Grade: 9 (2003-04), 2 (2009-10)
- Second Grade: 11 (2003-04), 5 (2009-10)
- Third Grade: 13 (2003-04), 7 (2009-10)

Legend:
- Green: 2003-04
- Blue: 2009-10
Retained kids made significant gains compared to promoted kids. Those gains grew substantially from year one to year two.

Retained kids were able to catch up; promoted kids fell behind. The greatest impact in learning was for minority kids.

Retained kids were still beating promoted kids... in reading and math

Marcus Winters, The Benefits of Florida’s Test-Based Promotion System, 2012
Florida Rising in the Ranks

Since 2003, when all states began participating in NAEP

- 5th - Closing racial and economic achievement gaps
- 4th - Largest gains for Black students
- 3rd - Largest gains for low-income students
- 1st - Largest gains for students with disabilities