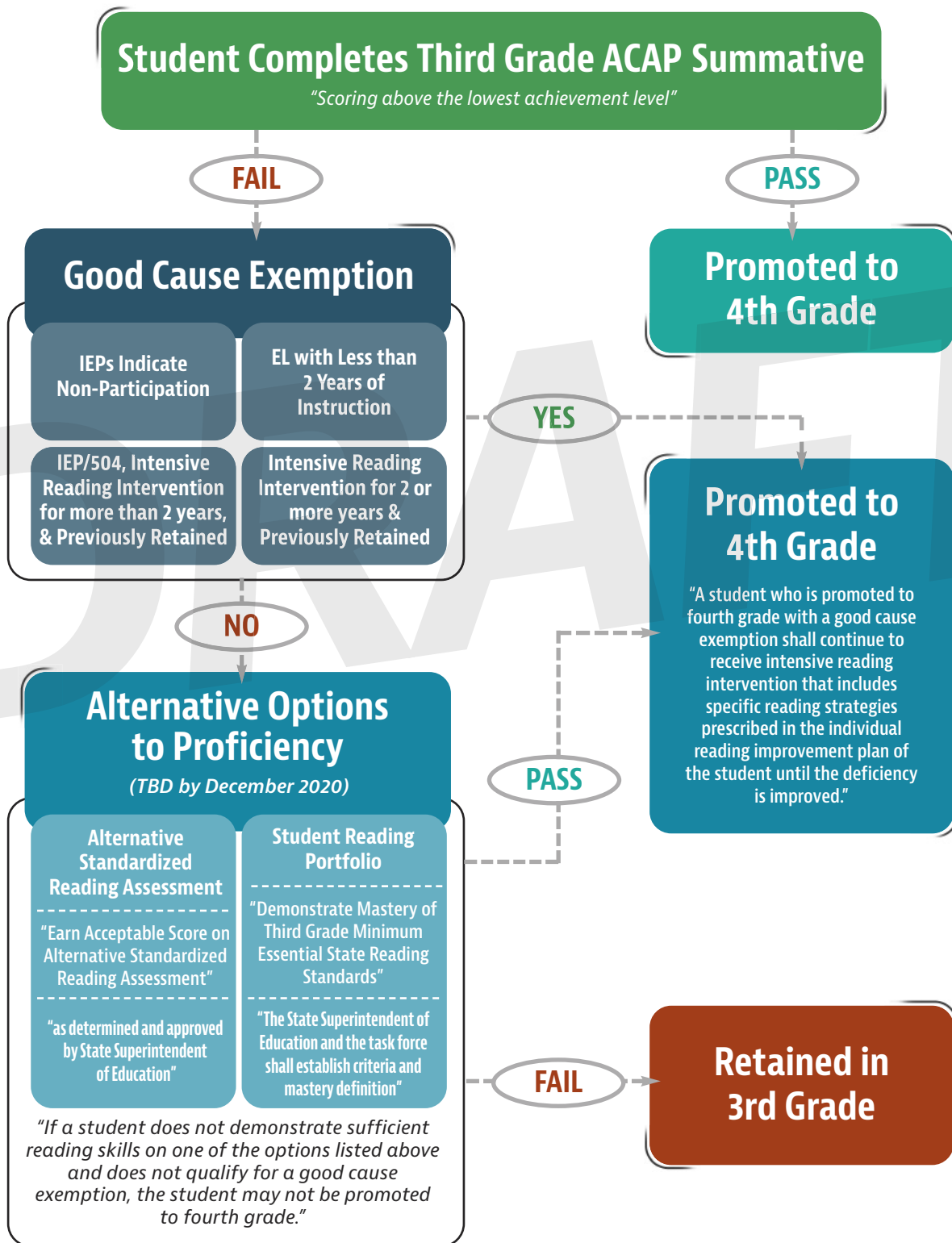


# ALSDE Literacy-Based Promotion Flow Chart

*"Commencing with the 2021-2022 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade. Students shall be provided all of the following options to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade."*



# ALSDE Literacy-Based Promotion Flow Chart

## **Good Cause Exemption**

A local education agency may only exempt students from mandatory retention, as provided in subsection (i), for good cause. A student who is promoted to fourth grade with a good cause exemption shall continue to receive intensive reading intervention that includes specific reading strategies prescribed in the individual reading improvement plan of the student until the deficiency is improved. The local education agency shall assist schools and teachers with the implementation of reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among students with reading difficulties. Good cause exemptions shall be limited to the following:

- (1) Students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with state law.
- (2) Students identified as English language learners who have had less than two years of instruction in English as a second language.
- (3) Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide English language arts reading assessment and who have an Individual Education Plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received intensive reading intervention for more than two years and who still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade.
- (4) Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years and who still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade for a total of two years.

No student shall be retained more than twice in kindergarten through third grade.

## **Mandatory Retention Request Criteria**

A request to exempt a student from the mandatory retention requirement using one of the good cause exemptions listed in subsection (j) shall be made consistent with the following:

- (1) Documentation shall be submitted to the school principal from the teacher of the student that indicates that the promotion of the student is appropriate. Documentation shall include a statement identifying which good cause exemption is requested, as well as the existing reading improvement plan or Individual Education Plan of the student, as applicable.
- (2) The school principal shall review the recommendation of the teacher, determine if the student meets one of the good cause exemptions, and shall make his or her determination in writing to the local superintendent of education. The local superintendent of education, in writing, shall approve or reject the recommendation of the school principal.
- (3) The LEA shall provide written notification to the parent of any student who is retained in third grade for not achieving the reading level required for promotion. Notice shall clearly state the reasons why the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption and shall include a description of the proposed interventions and supports that shall be provided to the student to improve any identified area of reading deficiency during the retained year.

## **Supports for Students Not "Demonstrating Sufficient Reading Skills"**

- (1) A student who is retained in third grade shall receive intensive acceleration. The intensive acceleration shall be taught by a highly effective teacher of reading who has received training in the science of reading and multisensory language instruction, as demonstrated by student reading performance data and teacher performance evaluations; shall have a reduced teacher-student ratio; and shall provide explicit and systematic reading instruction and intervention for the majority of student contact time each day.
- (2) A student who is promoted to fourth grade with a good cause exemption shall continue to receive intensive reading intervention that includes specific reading strategies prescribed in the individual reading improvement plan of the student until the deficiency is improved.

