

**Tennessee PTA Position Statement on Tennessee Learning Loss
Remediation
and Student Acceleration Act
(T.C.A. § 49-6-3115)
Third Grade Reading Retention Legislation**

The Tennessee PTA works to ensure that all students can be successful. The current third grade retention law, while working to ensure that students are capable of meeting standards, creates an environment where a singular test (i.e. TCAP or TNReady), and not a student's tracked growth or potentially their full capabilities, determines their educational outcomes and progress in school. We believe that the exceptions to retention set forth in the current legislation do not meet the full spectrum of needs a student might present or provide enough flexibility to prevent a student who is capable from being retained.

The Tennessee PTA Board of Directors believes that legislation regarding student retention should work to meet the needs, skills, and abilities of each student and must be based on multiple measures including student growth and achievement. The board of directors also believes that this legislation should return the ability for students, parents, teachers, and schools to make decisions for each student on an individual basis. The board of directors deems that local education agencies are best suited to craft individual retention policies that promote the success of their students. The Tennessee PTA Board of Directors asks that the third grade retention legislation be amended to ensure that decisions are made individually and based on a student's capabilities, and not as a collective in order to ensure the success of every student.

Tennessee PTA and our board of directors will continue to focus on our mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Adopted by the Tennessee PTA Board of Directors on January 21, 2023