

**The most important thing
your child will do in school
is learn how to read.**

The state of Texas has developed a new reading test that all 3rd grade children will take this year for the first time in order to be promoted to 4th grade.

What Are Your Rights as a Parent?

1. The school must notify parents, as early as kindergarten, if the child is at risk of not being promoted to the 4th grade based on the student's reading skills.
2. When a child in kindergarten through 3rd grade performs poorly in reading, the child must be provided "accelerated instruction." The instruction must be provided in a class of 10 or fewer students, if the child fails the 3rd grade reading test two times.
3. If the student fails the reading exam twice, the school district may give the student a "different" (alternate) reading exam.
4. Even if the child fails each 3rd grade reading exam, you, the parent, may ask that your child be promoted to 4th grade anyway. The principal, teacher and parent must agree unanimously to promote the student. These three people can meet as the Grade Placement Committee and promote the student to 4th grade. Whether your child is promoted or not, the accelerated instruction must continue into the next year.
5. You, the parent, have the right to participate in the Grade Placement Committee. Although you can waive your right to participate in this committee, you should not do so. You should participate in decisions affecting your child.



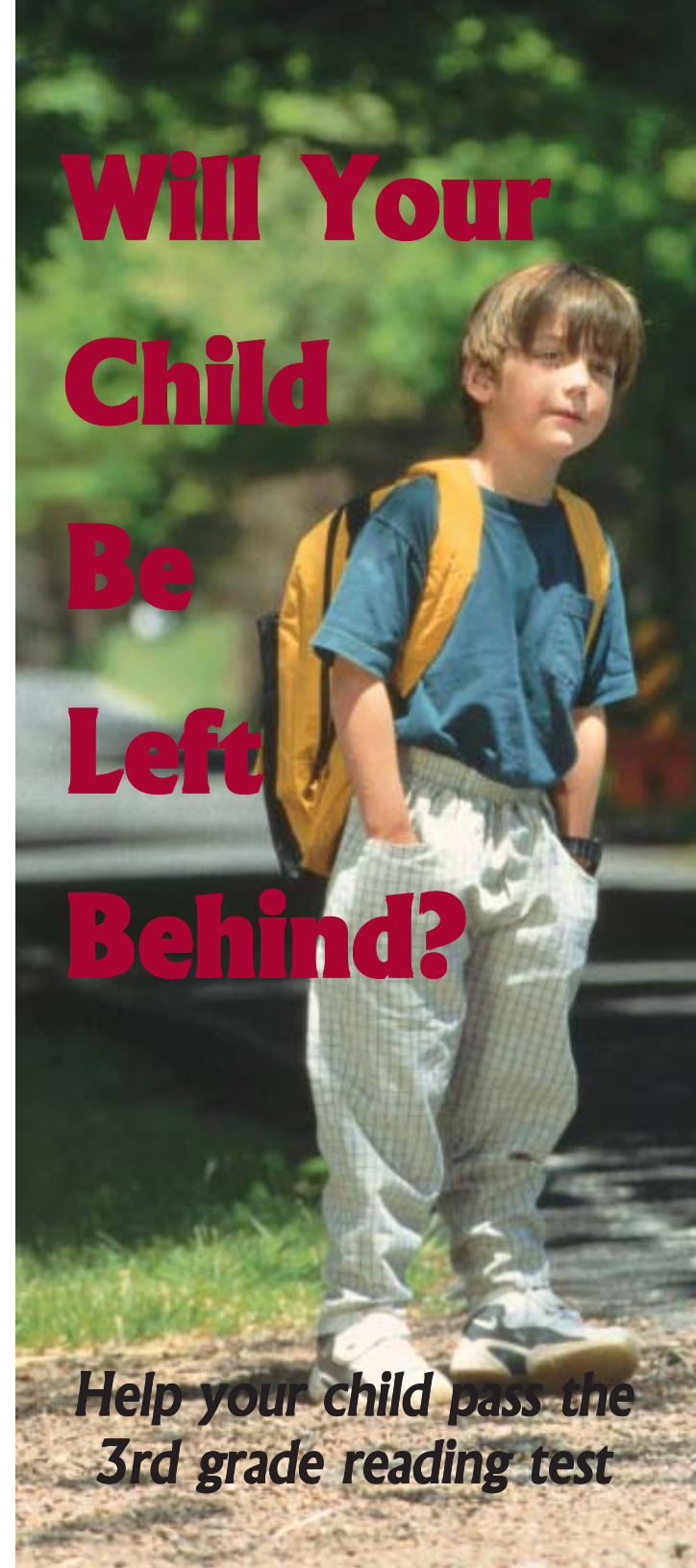
Texas Federation of Teachers
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**Will Your
Child
Be
Left
Behind?**

**Help your child pass the
3rd grade reading test**



Questions Parents Should Ask School Officials

Has my child been determined to be at risk for reading difficulties in kindergarten, first or second grade?

Has notice been sent to me that my child is having difficulties in reading?

If my child has been diagnosed as at risk, what kind of “accelerated instruction” has my child received? How is it different from regular teaching?

Has my child been referred to a reading class with fewer students — in order to receive extra academic attention?

Is my child’s teacher appropriately certified in elementary, bilingual or special education?



Did my child’s teacher receive special training in reading instruction?

Does my child’s teacher have at least one year of experience in the classroom?

Are disruptive students being removed from the classroom and given special attention?

Is my child designated as a special education student for

purposes of taking the 3rd grade reading test? If so, did the school notify me that my child was being placed in a special education program instead of the regular program?

Advice for Parents

- Read to your child every night, and have your child read to you.
Recommended: children’s books, magazines, newspapers.
- Ask that your child’s school provide you with information on your child’s reading ability, beginning in kindergarten. State law requires that parents receive this information.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
- Keep your child from watching too much television. Encourage your child to read and play instead of watching television.
- Prepare your child to be attentive and properly behaved at school.
- Cooperate with your child’s teacher if your child requires discipline.
- Make sure your child is well-rested, well-nourished and ready to learn.

