



We have great news to share with you regarding an emergency order issued by the Commissioner of Education this morning regarding state testing implications.

Highlights include but are not limited to:

- **Grade Retention:** Decisions on student grade retention solely for academic reasons must be determined at the local level by the school's principal, after a careful review of the student's academic record, with input from the parents, the student, teachers and school leaders.
- **Third-Grade Promotion:** A student may be promoted to grade four, regardless of the absence of an English Language Arts assessment or an ELA score of Level 2 or higher, if the district is able to determine that a student is performing at least at level 2.
- **Graduation Requirements:** Districts are authorized to waive the required state assessment for graduation, if the district determines on a case-by-case basis that the student's high school record establishes a comparable level of achievement.
- **End-of-Course Exams:** Districts may determine promotion and final course grades in classes with state end-of-course (EOC) exams, based solely on the student's performance in the course.
- **Support for Learning:** For students that are at risk of being retained, the school district must provide extra support and interventions.
- **School grades** will not be recalculated for this year unless specifically requested due to improvement.

The Orange County School Board and Superintendent sent a letter to the Commissioner last month requesting the results of this year's testing be used to inform instruction and address student regression experienced as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and not for retention/promotion, graduation, evaluation, or accountability purposes.

You can review the Emergency Order at ocps.net. We have also emailed and sent a text message with the [link](#) to the Emergency Order.