

# Ohio H.B. 164 Provides School Districts Some Relief from Anticipated 2020-2021 Third Grade Reading Guarantee Impact

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed Ohio House Bill 164 (H.B. 164) on Friday, June 19, 2020, also known as the Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, H.B. 164 goes beyond its religious provisions to also address a variety of issues that Ohio school districts face as they prepare to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. Recognizing that school closures impacted student instruction and reduced available assessment data, Ohio's legislature provides the following exemptions and prohibitions to Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee provisions:

Recognizing that school closures impacted student instruction and reduced available assessment data, Ohio's legislature provides the following exemptions and prohibitions to Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee provisions:

- Prohibits a school district/school from retaining a third-grade student who does not attain a passing score on the fall administration of the third grade English language arts achievement assessment, if the student's principal and reading teacher agree that other assessments of the student's reading skills demonstrate the reading competency necessary for fourth grade promotion.
- Prohibits the State Board of Education from the annual review and upward adjustment of the third grade English language arts assessment promotion score, and, instead, requires the use of the 2019-2020 promotion score of 683.

Section 18 of Ohio House Bill 164: TGRG Promotion Scores of 683/46 remain the same for the 2020-2021 school year on the state ELA/Reading Assessment and 615 on the Terra Nova 3 Alternative Reading Assessment.