

Meetings for 3rd Graders Scoring Below Basic on the ELA Assessment: **UPDATE**

In 2013, the state legislature passed ESSB 5946 which amended [RCW 28A.655.235](#). One of the requirements of that law is for schools to meet with the parents/guardians of 3rd grade students that score below basic (level 1) on the ELA assessment to discuss improvement/intervention plans to bring students to grade level.

During the 2015 session, the law was amended through ESSB 5803. The detailed [Q&A document](#) is updated to reflect these changes. In addition, the chart below summarizes the key changes.

	Previous <i>ESSB 5946 (2013)</i>	Revision – now current law <i>ESSB 5803 (2015)</i>
Requirement	Parent/guardian meetings with the school to discuss	intensive improvement strategies and appropriate grade placement are required.
Identification of students and timing of meetings	...for any student who <u>receives</u> a score of below basic on the third grade statewide student assessment in English language arts, a meeting must be scheduled before the end of the school year...	<u>Prior to the return of the results</u> of the statewide student assessment in English language arts... ...students in 3rd grade who are reading below grade-level or who, based on formative or diagnostic assessment, and other indicators, are likely to score in the below basic level on the 3rd grade statewide student assessment in ELA.
Required participants	...between the student's parent or guardian, teacher, and the principal of the school the student attends or the principal's designee	...between teachers and parents
If a meeting does not occur prior to the return of the 3rd grade ELA assessment results	N/A	...the principal or his or her designee must notify the student's parents or guardians of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the below basic score; • an explanation regarding the requirements of the law with respect to the meeting, provision of improvement strategies, and grade placement; • the intensive improvement strategy options that are available; • the school district's grade placement policy; • contact information for a school district employee who can respond to questions and provide additional information; and • a reasonable deadline for obtaining the parent's consent regarding the student's intensive improvement strategies that will be implemented and the student's grade placement.
If parents do not respond, or disagree	Not addressed	If the school district does not receive a response from a parent by the deadline, or a reasonable time thereafter, the principal or his or her designee shall make a decision on the student's grade placement for the following year and the intensive improvement strategies that will be implemented during the following school year. If the school principal and parent cannot agree on the appropriate grade placement and improvement strategies from the list of available options, the parent's request will be honored.