

Western Reserve Elementary

Staff and Students Excel
Parents and Community Care

Melanie K. Conaway, Principal
Jennifer Cornelison, Assistant Principal

3851 U.S. Route 20 E.
Collins, Ohio 44826
419-660-9824

Third Grade Reading Guarantee sets school careers on track

Western Reserve Elementary is in its fourth year of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The guarantee's purpose is to help us find out which of our K-3 students are struggling to learn to read. We do this by assessing every student's reading ability at the beginning of each of these grades. Once we know a child is not reading at the level needed for her grade – and why – we can give her the right help to catch up.

Why do we need a reading guarantee? Reading is the key to so much of what our children learn in school. Studies have shown that when a child does not read well by the end of grade 3, learning in every grade after will be difficult. This can lead to failure and even dropping out of school.

To measure this risk, the Ohio Department of Education studied struggling readers who were in third grade in school year 2003-2004. It followed the group to see how many of its members graduated on schedule in 2013. The Ohio study confirmed what a recent national study had shown: a child who is not reading at grade level by the end of grade 3 is *three times more likely not to graduate on time* than classmates who are proficient readers. The department of education also studied Ohio third-graders in 2005 and found the same to be true.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee is our way of going to bat for our students who may otherwise get a poor start in school. To learn more about the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and how we work with our struggling readers, contact the school office (419) 660-9824.