Franklin County

- The percentage of students performing proficient or higher on third grade language arts tests has declined rapidly since the 2018 school year. *(Ohio Department of Education District Achievement Ratings)*

![% Proficient or Higher on Third Grade English Language Arts Test](image)

- During the 2018-2019 school year, seven out of 16 Franklin County school districts had third grade proficiency rates under 75%. *(Ohio Department of Education District Achievement Ratings)* School attendance rates largely declined from the 2018/2019 school year to the 2020/2021 school year. *(Ohio Department of Education District Achievement Ratings)*
- There are racial disparities in third grade ELA across all seven districts. White/Non-Hispanic are generally more proficient across all districts. Black/Non-Hispanic are the least proficient in CCS., Gahanna-Jefferson, Reynoldsburg, and Groveport Madison. The most significant gap is between White/Non-Hispanic and Hispanics in Westerville. *(Ohio Department of Education District Disaggregated Race/Ethnicity)*

Ohio

- In 2019, 78% of fourth graders from families that have low incomes scored below proficient reading level, while only 47% of students from middle- to high-income families scored below proficient reading level. *(Kids Count Data Center)*
- In a 2019 Benchmarking Central Ohio Report comparing Metro Columbus to 22 similarly sized communities, Metro Columbus had the third-lowest number of 3-
and 4-year-olds enrolled in preschool, at just 40.7%. (The Columbus Foundation, Benchmarking Central Ohio 2019)

National

- Fourth grade is a crucial crossover point in a child's educational development. Up until third grade, a child is learning to read. Upon entering fourth grade, children read to learn – or at least should be. If this transition doesn't occur at this stage, a child's future success is severely compromised. (Annie E. Casey Foundation, Grade Level Reading Research and Publications, also see The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading)
- The following five factors have been shown to increase student reading proficiency by third grade: kindergarten readiness, reducing absenteeism, summer learning, reducing family stressors, high-quality teaching at home, community and school. (AEC. Early Warning! Update)
- Students not proficient in reading by the end of third grade were four times more likely to drop out of high school, and 88% of students who failed to earn a high school diploma had struggled to achieve third grade reading proficiency. (The Annie E. Casey Foundation)
- Of all students who are not reading proficiently in third grade, Black and Hispanic children are two times more likely than white children to not graduate from high school. (AEC Double Jeopardy – How Third Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation)