

House Bill 2 ensures Texas' youngest students have strong foundations in reading and math.

Only 52% of Texas third graders met grade-level reading on the 2025 STAAR — and just 40% of low-income third graders did. Mathematics tells a similar story: 46% of all third graders and 36% of low-income third graders met grade level.¹ The 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress showed Texas's lowest performers losing more ground in both subjects.² Third grade is the inflection point: students who cannot read on grade level by the end of third grade carry that gap forward, and only 1 in 5 Texas students who missed grade-level reading in 3rd grade in 2019 caught up by 6th grade.³ House Bill 2 (89R) installs K-3 literacy and numeracy screeners, funds the intervention that follows, expands the Early Education Allotment, and makes the mathematics achievement academies mandatory for every K-3 educator by the 2030–31 school year.

52%

TX 3rd graders meeting grade level in reading, 2025.

TEA STAAR · 2024–25 TAPR

46%

TX 3rd graders meeting grade level in math, 2025.

TEA STAAR · 2024–25 TAPR

1 in 5

Of TX students who miss 3rd-grade reading catch up by 6th.

Commit Partnership Analysis

WHAT STRONG FOUNDATIONS DELIVER

Early literacy and numeracy are the highest-leverage investments Texas can make. About 16 percent of children who are not reading proficiently by the end of third grade do not graduate from high school on time, a rate four times greater than that for proficient readers.⁴ House Bill 2's K-3 screening and intervention system, the new \$250 intervention allotment, the expanded Early Education Allotment, and the mathematics achievement academy mandate are designed to lift the share of Texas students whose foundational skills set them up for a postsecondary credential, a living-wage career, and lifetime earnings well above what they would otherwise reach.

REFERENCES

1. TEA STAAR 2024–25 TAPR 2. NCES, NAEP 2024 3. Commit Partnership Analysis 4. Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). Double Jeopardy: How Third Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation. 5. HB 2, 89th Texas Legislature (2025)

WHAT HB 2 DOES

01 Universal K-3 screening and intervention

Every K-3 student receives a reading screener and a math screener three times each school year. Reading screeners also serve as K-1 dyslexia screening. Students at-risk on two consecutive reading screeners receive evidence-based intervention from a trained instructor until back on track. A new \$250 per-student allotment funds the intervention.

02 Mathematics academies for every K-3 educator

By 2030–31, every K-3 teacher, principal, assistant principal, mathematics coach, and interventionist must complete a Teacher Mathematics Achievement Academy — paralleling the reading academy model. The bill also expands the existing literacy academies to include reading intervention training.

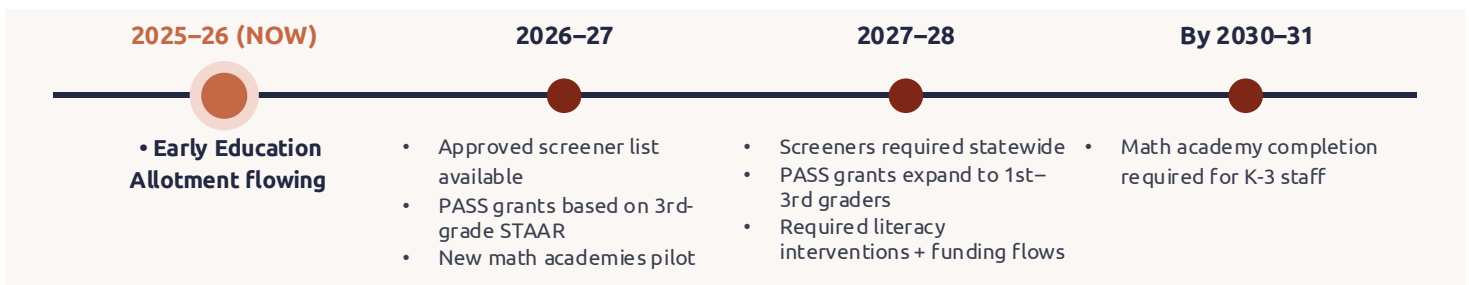
03 More early-grade funding for high-need students

Per-student early-grade funding increased for each K-3 student who is economically disadvantaged or an emergent bilingual learner. The bill also directs funding to ensure Pre-K 4 is fully funded for the full school day.

04 Parent tutoring grants (PASS)

A new \$400 PASS grant lets parents of at-risk 1st-3rd graders, and 3rd graders below grade level, purchase tutoring from top-rated (Teacher Incentive Allotment-designated) teachers and approved providers. Eligibility is determined by the student's literacy screener results and 3rd-grade STAAR performance.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



STATUS & WHAT'S NEXT

House Bill 2 sets a strong foundation in Texas for early literacy and numeracy. The 2025 STAAR gains in 3rd-grade reading (48% → 52%) and math (42% → 46%) suggest the state's prior investments are working, and HB 2 accelerates them.

Realizing the full impact will require **long-term monitoring** — meaningful 3rd-grade STAAR evidence will not be visible until the 2027–28 results at the earliest. PA recommends giving educators the runway to implement the screener instruments and the math academies and seeing full implementation of the PASS grant before changes to the law are considered.