

## PROFICIENCY BASED PROMOTION

Proficiency based promotion provides the opportunity for students to move forward in their educational endeavors by subject, course, and/or grade level based upon mastery of the Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills, not upon time spent in classes, completion of assignments, or other prerequisites. The student who can successfully be moved ahead upon proficiency based promotion guidelines can demonstrate content knowledge, skills and the application of those skills and concepts. Parental involvement is integral in the proficiency based promotion as is consideration of the student's social, emotional, and intellectual needs.

1. Upon the request of a student, parent, guardian, or educator, a student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in one or more areas of the core curriculum.
  - A. Proficiency will be demonstrated by assessment or evaluation appropriate to the curriculum area, for example: portfolio, criterion-referenced test, thesis, project, product or performance. Proficiency in all laboratory sciences will require students to perform relevant laboratory techniques.
  - B. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the core areas twice each year. Once before the beginning of the school term and at the end of the school term as identified in 70 O.S. 11-103.6:
    1. Social Studies
    2. Language Arts
    3. The Arts
    4. Languages
    5. Mathematics
    6. Science
  - C. Proficiency for advancing to the next level of study will be demonstrated by a score of 90% or comparable performance on an assessment or demonstration.
  - D. Qualifying students are those who are legally enrolled in the local school district.
  - E. The district will not require registration for the proficiency assessment more than one month in advance of the assessment date.
  - F. Students will be allowed to take proficiency assessments in multiple subject areas. If testing duration becomes a consideration, additional testing dates may be selected.
  - G. Students not demonstrating proficiency will be allowed to try again during the next assessment period. No student will be permitted to retest in the same subject area within a 90-day period.
  - H. Exceptions to standard assessment may be approved for those students with disabling conditions.
2. Students demonstrating proficiency (90% and above) in a core curriculum area will be given credit for their learning and will be given the opportunity to advance to the next level of study in the appropriate curriculum area.
  - A. The school will confer with parents in making such promotion/acceleration decisions. Such factors as social and mental growth should be considered.

- B. If the parent or guardian requests promotion/acceleration contrary to the recommendation of school personnel, the parent or guardian shall sign a written statement to that effect. The statement shall be included in the permanent record of the student.
  - C. Failure to demonstrate proficiency will not be noted on the transcript.
  - D. Students must progress through a curriculum area in a sequential manner. Elementary, middle level, or high school students may demonstrate proficiency and advance to the next level in a curriculum area. Proficiency for advancing to the next level of study will be demonstrated by a score of 90% or comparable performance on an assessment or demonstration.
  - E. If proficiency is demonstrated in a 9-12 curriculum area, appropriate notation will be placed on the high school transcript. The unit shall count toward meeting the requirement for the high school diploma. Credit will be noted as "credit by exam" (CBE) with no grade assigned. If a student in grade K-8 successfully demonstrates proficiency, a team meeting will be held to discuss test results and grade skipping.
  - F. Units earned through proficiency assessment will be transferable with students among school districts within the state of Oklahoma.
- 3. Proficiency assessment will measure mastery of the Priority Academic Student Skills in the same way that curriculum and instruction are focused on the Priority Academic Student Skills. In other words, assessment will be aligned with curriculum and instruction.
  - 4. Options for accommodating student needs for advancement after demonstrating proficiency may include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - A. Individualized instruction;
    - B. Correspondence courses;
    - C. Independent study;
    - D. Concurrent enrollment;
    - E. Cross-grade grouping;
    - F. Cluster grouping;
    - G. Grade/course advancement;
    - H. Individualized education programs.
  - 5. Each year the school district will disseminate materials explaining the opportunities of proficiency based promotion to students and parents in the district. Priority Academic Student Skills and type of assessment or evaluation for each core curriculum area will be made available upon request.
  - 6. Testing days each school year will be the first week in May and the second week in August. Parents and students must complete the application to demonstrate proficiency form in person at the proper building site. Applications must be completed not later than one week prior to the test date.

**REFERENCE: Board Minutes dated December 13, 1993**

**CROSS-REFERENCE: Policy 3117 Promotion and Retention**

**Policy 3118 Grading**

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