

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Code **IKE** Issued **7/15**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the promotion and retention of students.

The district affirms academic excellence for students. This promotion/retention policy describes the standards our students must meet in order to maintain academic excellence and to be considered for promotion from one grade to the next.

This policy will be applicable to all students who are in the regular school program. Students functioning in special education programs will be governed by their Individual Educational Plan (IEP). The district will administer this policy fairly, equitably, and consistently in the schools.

Attendance

Students in grades K through 12 who have more than 10 absences will not be eligible for promotion unless each day in excess of 10 is lawful, as defined by policy JH, and is approved by the principal. The principal will promptly notify the parent/legal guardian that the child is not eligible for promotion due to excessive absences.

Student Performance

The decision-making process for elementary and middle school students is based on the student's academic performance. The student's academic performance is determined by an examination of academic achievement as measured by classroom performance related to state and district-established achievement standards.

Promotion and Retention Considerations

Promotion criteria for kindergarten

Kindergarten students will be promoted to first grade upon successful completion of a full year kindergarten program that is based on the state kindergarten curriculum standards. When formal and informal assessments indicate that a kindergarten student is not developmentally ready for first grade, the teacher, principal, and parents/legal guardians will consider retention. The parents/legal guardians must concur with a decision to retain a student in kindergarten.

Promotion criteria for grades one and two

Students in grades one and two are expected to master the state English/language arts and mathematics state curriculum standards. The district will promote or retain students in grades one and two based on performance as indicated by grades, teacher judgment, and formal and informal assessments.

Promotion criteria for grades three through eight

Students in grades three through eight are expected to master the state grade level curriculum standards in all four core subject areas (language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies). The district will promote or retain students in grades three through eight based on performance as indicated by grades, teacher judgment, and formal and informal assessments in these four core subjects. Students who attend summer school will be considered for promotion to the next grade.

PAGE 2 - IKE - PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Promotion criteria for grades nine through 12

- *Grades nine to 10* - successful completion of five Carnegie units, including one in English and one unit in mathematics.
- *Grade 10 to 11* - successful completion of 10 Carnegie units, including two units in English and two units in mathematics.
- *Grade 11 to 12* - successful completion of 17 Carnegie units and must be enrolled in all required units necessary to complete graduation requirements. Requests for exceptions to this criteria must be presented by the principal to the superintendent for review and ruling.

Conference Reviews for Grades K through 12

All parents/legal guardians will be invited to attend a conference to discuss their child's performance. Additional conferences may be held throughout the year with the student, parent/legal guardian and appropriate school personnel to discuss progress made by the student. These conferences will review and document the student's progress.

Parents/Legal guardians of students who are performing below grade level will discuss the following:

- assistance/intervention services the district and school will provide
- actions the parent/legal guardian and student will take

Information to Parents/Legal Guardians

The district will provide access to this promotion/retention policy to every student and parent/legal guardian via the website and other methods of communication.

Adopted 12/13/76; Revised 8/12/86, 4/29/99, 1/12/04, 7/20/15

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code, 1976 as amended:
 - 1. Section 59-18-500 - Academic plans for students.
- B. State Department of Education:
 - 1. Guidelines for Academic Plans for Students.