

JFB – PROMOTION AND RETENTION

GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

After completing the requirements of the current grade level, a student shall be promoted to the next grade level. A student may be retained in the same grade only upon the recommendation of the teachers, principal, and other certified staff in his or her school, after consideration of a variety of data, including, but not limited to:

1. The student's acquired knowledge, attitudes, and skills;
2. The student's emotional, social, and physical maturity;
3. The student's age;
4. The student's attendance;
5. The preferences of the student;
6. The preferences of the student's parents or guardians.

The final decision about grade promotion or retention shall be made by district certified staff. Parents shall be informed in writing of retention decisions about their children, the reasons for those decisions, and procedures for appealing those decisions. Appeals may be made in writing to the superintendent.

PLACEMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Grade placement shall be determined at the beginning of each academic year based on the student's accumulated number of credits.

GRADE ACCELERATION OF ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Acceleration of a student to a higher elementary or middle school grade (that is, skipping all or part of the current grade or skipping the next grade) shall be permitted only when the student has already learned a preponderance of the grade-level indicators scheduled to be learned in the grade being skipped. Acceleration shall be carried out only when intellectual, emotional, and social benefits to the student can be expected.

Acceleration of a student shall be based on the recommendation of the teachers, principal, and other certified staff in the school, after consideration of a variety of data, including, but not limited to:

1. The student's acquired knowledge, attitudes, and skills;
2. The student's emotional, social, and physical maturity;
3. The student's age;
4. The student's attendance;
5. The preferences of the student; and
6. The preferences of the student's parents or guardian.

Any parent or guardian who requests that the district consider grade acceleration for his or her child shall be responsible for providing district staff with relevant information from a credible independent professional source about the child's intellectual, emotional, and social maturity.

The final decision concerning grade acceleration shall be made by licensed district staff.

CREDIT BY PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION (GRADES 9-12)

It is the philosophy of Gardner Edgerton USD 231 that full participation in classes is the true basis for the academic development of each student. Students achieve best by interacting with teachers and students through the presentation of course curriculum. However, in certain situations, a student may wish to demonstrate mastery in a specific course so he/she can advance to a subsequent course or pursue other classes. Under these special circumstances, a student may choose to demonstrate course mastery through a mastery examination.

Eligibility

Any student in grades 9-12 may request a mastery examination in a required course or a pre-requisite to a required course. Students may not earn more than one unit of credit each school year by mastery examination.

Application

The student must file an application through the student's counselor. The SIT Team or IEP Team, with involvement by the building administrator, shall address requests for advancement by mastery examination.

For students currently enrolled in USD 231, the application must be filed:

- For first semester credit - by the end of the third quarter of the previous school year
- For second semester – by the end of the first quarter of the current school year

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Courses Available for Credit by Mastery Examination

A student may apply to receive credit by mastery examination only in required core courses or pre-requisite courses listed in this policy or otherwise approved by the USD231 Educational Services Department.

Attempts

Only one attempt for credit by mastery examination for a course shall be allowed. The written examination must be completed in one sitting unless circumstances beyond the control of the student or exam administrator should arise.

Materials

Upon request, the course syllabus, a list of indicators, the district curriculum to be covered, the title of any book used, and a description of both parts of the examination will be provided to the student. It will be the responsibility of the student to prepare for the examination outside of the instructional day.

The Exam

Mastery Examinations will be comprehensive and will assess course competencies as related to state and district standards. It will be administered outside of the instructional school day on a date determined by the administration or designee.

Each exam will be developed and assessed by district personnel who have certification and expertise in the associated content area. Mastery examinations will be reviewed yearly prior to administration. The examination will be scored by a committee including two department representatives, a building administrator and any other committee members the administrator shall name.

The examination will be completed two weeks prior to the end of the semester in which the application to take the examination is submitted.

The examination will consist of two parts:

Part I

A summative exam will be administered assessing the student's knowledge of the course concepts. If the student scores 90% or better he/she may proceed to the second part.

Part II

Products demonstrating competency in the skills acquired during the course will be required. These products will be assigned by the district personnel developing the exam and should be similar to those assigned in the actual course (i.e., term paper, essay, critique of novel, converse in a foreign language). Courses in which the majority of instruction and assessment consist of lab activities will require a lab performance assessment. Products will have a specified due date. A percent correct score shall be given in accordance with grading of products in the course. The student must score 90% or better on Part II of the examination to be considered as mastering the course.

Credit

The building administrator shall approve credit by means of the mastery examination with input of the SIT Team or IEP Team. The examination must reflect the student's achievement of course objectives at a high level of mastery. Scores for Part I and Part II will be averaged to obtain a course grade. No credit will be given should the student's score be less than 90%. Should the student's score be 90% or higher, a letter grade consistent with the GEHS grading scale will be assigned and the student's transcript will indicate the course name, letter grade, and the words "credit by mastery examination".

Credit will be awarded at semester. Written notification of the student's attained score and approval/disapproval of credit will be given to the student and parent/guardian. After learning of his/her credit option, the student may opt to take the course in lieu of the credit by mastery examination.

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Appeal

An appeal of any decision, including percent correct on either part of the examination must be made in writing to the USD 231 Assessment Coordinator within 10 calendar days after the official written notification has been given to the student and parent.

Credit by Mastery Examination limited to the following GEHS courses

Introduction to Social Studies
World History
US History
Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
Pre-Calculus
Physical Science
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Spanish I
Spanish II
Spanish III
French I
French II
French III

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits Required for Graduation

A candidate for graduation from the district must have successfully completed a minimum of 28 units of credit in grades 9-12. Specific subject field requirements in grades 9-12 are as follows:

Language Arts.....4 credits
Social Science.....3.5 credits
Science.....3 credits
Mathematics.....3 credits
Physical Education.....1 credit
Health0.5 credit
Fine Arts*1 credit

*Comprised of: ½ credit Communication Arts: *Mass Media,, Oral Comm., Forensics, Debate, or Teen Leadership*
½ credit of one of the following: *Instrumental Music, Art, Vocal Music or Theater*

Electives (courses of student’s choice)12 credits

Alternative Methods of Earning Credit toward Graduation Grades 9-12

The use of accredited alternative programs by students for satisfaction of graduation requirements must have prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee.