

- Required
 Local
 Notice

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

It is essential that each child experience both challenge and success from school activities. To this end, the district will make every effort to place each student in the most appropriate learning level for a successful educational experience.

District curriculum guides indicate goals for achievement by the "average" student at each grade level. However, academic growth, like physical growth, does not take place at the same pace or time for all individuals. Certain students may achieve mastery in a shorter period, while others need additional time. Early identification and intervention, promotion and retention are methods of meeting the needs of such children.

The following guidelines shall govern student progression:

Early Identification/Intervention

Classroom teachers are expected to make every effort to identify early those students at risk of failing. The Building Principal and the parents/guardian must be notified promptly if retention is anticipated, and a special support program shall be designed for each child identified as in danger of failing. Such support services may include, but are not limited to, individualized assistance before, during or after the school day; remedial classes; a change in instructional treatment, and, where appropriate, referral to the Committee on Special Education for evaluation.

Promotion/Retention

Elementary schools. At the elementary level, students who pass all subjects will be promoted. Students who do not make satisfactory progress in one or more basic subjects -- Reading, English, Mathematics, Spelling, Social Studies and Science -- shall have their cases considered on an individual basis and may be retained as outlined in the section entitled "Retention" below.

Junior High School (grades 6-8). Students will earn a maximum number of credits in all subjects/courses for grade 6, for grade 7 and for grade 8 in accordance with 4750-R for promotion to the next grade (grade 8 or high school).

Students will be promoted or retained according to 4750-R *which will be updated as required.*

Senior High School. In general, promotion from one grade to the next shall be contingent upon the passing of all required subjects and the accumulation of 4 or 5 units of credit at each grade level.

Academic standards. Building Principals shall be responsible for ensuring that written standards for student progress at each grade level are available to parents and others upon request. Such academic standards are to be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools each year.

Retention. Every effort shall be made to identify and remediate a student's difficulties before she/she is retained in grade.

If retention is to be considered, a decision to retain shall be arrived at by consensus from a case conference approach involving the teacher, Building Principal, school psychologist, and parent/guardian. Factors to be considered include teacher recommendation; classroom achievement and attitude; standardized test scores; social and emotional development; results of the family conference; and, for identified students, recommendations by the Committee on Special Education. If a consensus cannot be reached, the decision of the Building Principal shall be final.

No student will be retained without an appropriate educational plan defining what will occur that is instructionally different for the student. Once the educational plan has been implemented, the student will be monitored regularly. The educational plan will be revised until the student demonstrates acceptable performance.

Summer School

Junior High School (grades 6-8). Students will be recommended for summer school according to 4750-R. Students must accrue a minimum number of credits in grade 6, in grade 7 and in grade 8 in accordance with 4750-R to be eligible to attend summer school.

Upon completion of summer school, the higher of the two final grades (regular school year versus summer school) will be the final grade for the course.

High School. A student should be recommended for summer school when he or she is failing core subjects with a grade average of at least 50% per course.

Upon completion of summer school, the average of the two final grades (regular school year and summer school) will be the final grade for the course.

Ref: Education Law §§1709; 2503(4); 3202
8 NYCRR §100.4
Isqwith v. Levitt, 285 App. Div. 833; 137 N.Y.S.2d 497 (1955)
Matter of Eckert, 13 EDR 270 (1979)
Op. Counsel, 1 EDR 775 (1952)

Adoption date: July 7, 2009
Revision date: August 22, 2011
Revision date: February 10, 2014
Revision date: September 14, 2015
Revision date: September 12, 2016