
STUDENT PROMOTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY *Policy Code:* **3420**

A. PURPOSE

The board believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level. To the extent reasonably possible, students should be given as much or as little time as they need to be proficient at a particular level of study. Students will be promoted to the next level of study as described in this policy.

B. STUDENT PROMOTION STANDARDS

The superintendent shall develop (1) proposed promotion standards and (2) a process to be used in determining a student's readiness to progress to the next level of study and shall submit the standards and process to the board for approval. The standards will be based, in part, upon proficiency in reading. The standards and process must provide multiple criteria for assessing a student's readiness to progress to the next level of study, such as standardized test scores, formative and diagnostic assessments, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student's work and, when appropriate, accepted standards for assessing developmental growth. The standards and process will incorporate all state law and State Board of Education policy requirements, including those for the assessment and promotion of third grade students as described in G.S. 115C-83.6 *et seq.* and State Board of Education Policies KNEC-002 and -003.

Principals shall ensure that the promotion standards are used by teachers and school administrators in assessing each student's readiness to progress to the next level of study. Principals have the authority to promote or retain students based upon the standards approved by the board and any applicable standards set by the State Board of Education.

To reduce the number of students who do not meet promotion standards, the board directs school administrators and teachers to use individual growth plans as required in policy 3405, Students at Risk of Academic Failure, to address the needs of students who are not making adequate academic progress.

C. LOCAL PROMOTION STANDARDS**1. Grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2**

Students in grades K, 1 and 2 will be expected to demonstrate grade level proficiency on the current state instructional standards in reading, writing, and mathematics. Multiple measures are to be used to determine grade level proficiency on the current state instructional standards including, but not limited, to:

- a. K-5 Portfolio, including writing samples
- b. K-2 math benchmark assessments
- c. Demonstration of the current state grade level instructional standards
- d. Teacher observation and recommendation
- e. Reading 3D Diagnostic Data

Students who are performing below grade level will be provided intervention strategies according to the school remediation plan and the student's individual growth plan. Students who are still performing below grade level after receiving intervention will not be promoted, unless otherwise determined by the school principal in accordance with Subsection E of this policy.

2. Grades 3-5

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will be expected to demonstrate grade level proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. Multiple measures are to be used to determine grade level proficiency including, but not limited, to:

- a. Standardized test scores from the North Carolina End-of-Grade tests
- b. Demonstration of the current state grade level instructional standards
- c. K-5 portfolios, including writing samples
- d. Benchmark assessments
- e. Teacher observation and recommendation
- f. Reading 3D Diagnostic Data

Students who are performing below grade level will be provided intervention strategies according to the school remediation plan and the student's individual growth plan. Students who are still performing below grade level after receiving intervention will not be promoted, unless otherwise determined by the school principal in accordance with Subsection E of this policy.

3. Grades 6-8

Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be expected to demonstrate grade level proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. Multiple measures are to be used to determine grade level proficiency including, but not limited, to:

- a. Standardized test scores from the North Carolina End-of-Grade tests
- b. Pass five courses: one of which must be language arts, one of which must be mathematics, one of which must be science or social studies

- c. Grades
- d. Student work portfolios, including writing samples
- e. Benchmark assessments
- f. Teacher observation and recommendation

Students who are performing below grade level will be provided intervention strategies according to the school remediation plan and the student's individual growth plan. Students who are still performing below grade level after receiving intervention will not be promoted, unless otherwise determined by the school principal in accordance with Subsection E of this policy.

4. Grades 6-8 End of Course, End of Grade, and North Carolina Final Exams

The End of Course (EOC), End of Grade (EOG) and North Carolina Final Exam results shall count as twenty percent (20%) of a student's final grade in each middle school course for which such a test is administered. To earn high school credit for a course with an EOC assessment, in grades 6 through 8, a student must demonstrate College and Career Readiness by performing at achievement level 4 or 5. Students not demonstrating College and Career Readiness, performing below achievement level 4, shall retake the course. Middle school students requiring multiple final assessments, within a single subject, should have the assessments averaged for the final exam score. This requirement does not apply for students assessed on the Extended Content Standards or English Learner students in their first year in the United States.

5. High School End of Course Tests

The End of Course (EOC) assessment, North Carolina Final Exam and vocational post assessment results shall count as twenty percent (20%) of a student's final grade in each high school course for which such a test is administered. This requirement does not apply for students following the Future Ready Occupational Course of Study or English Learner students in their first year in the United States. This applies to English/Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies EOC and NCFE assessments. (State Board of Education Policy TEST-003, -011, -016) All other high school courses are also required to administer a final exam that shall count as twenty percent (20%) of a student's final grade.

6. Diploma Standards

To receive a North Carolina high school diploma, a student must complete the requirements set forth in policy 3460, Graduation Requirements.

D. INTERVENTION FOR STUDENTS UNLIKELY TO MEET PROMOTION STANDARDS

The goal of Asheboro City Schools is to identify, as early as possible, students who are unlikely to meet the standards for progression to the next level of study so that the school can provide appropriate intervention. Intervention must be provided for any student who does not meet grade level proficiencies established by the State or who is determined to be at-risk of not meeting grade level proficiencies or making progress toward graduation established by the Local Board or State.

Every student who does not meet grade level proficiency, is at risk of academic failure, or is not making progress toward graduation shall have developed for them an individual growth plan constructed by the student's teacher(s) whether the student is promoted or retained. Each plan shall include student assessment data, intervention strategies, and progress monitoring strategies (Students At Risk of Academic Failure, policy 3405).

1. Intervention Plans

Each school must submit to the board the school's plan for intervention as part of the school's yearly improvement plan. Schools also must include in the school improvement plan the types of intervention strategies that will be offered at the school. At a minimum, the intervention plan must address the following elements:

- a. identification of and intervention for students at risk of failing the student accountability standards;
- b. differentiated instruction for students who have been retained; and
- c. meeting individual students' needs.

2. Intervention Strategies

Intervention involves identifying strategies specifically designed to increase grade level proficiency. Strategies may include, but are not limited to, alternative learning models, special homework, smaller classes, flexible grouping, tutorial sessions, extended school day, Saturday school, modified instructional programs, parental involvement, small or large group counseling sessions, summer school instruction, participation in or restriction of participation in extracurricular activities, individualized instruction or goals, and remedial instruction or retention.

Extended instructional opportunities should be different from and supplemental to regular classroom instruction. The school will involve parents and the student in discussing intervention strategies. Students will participate in the intervention strategies and demonstrate acceptable growth and achievement.

E. REVIEW OF STUDENT PROMOTION STANDARDS**1. Previous retentions**

Previous retentions may be a factor in waiving student promotion standards.

2. Review Process

In the case where a student's promotion is in question, the principal must consider the following before recommending promotion or retention.

Teachers shall provide documentation of the student's performance during a review process. Documentation may include but is not limited to:

1. Student work samples;
2. Other assessment data;
3. Information supplied by parents;
4. For student with disabilities, information that is included in the individualized education program; and
5. Other information that verifies that a student is at grade level or, is making adequate progress to meet grade level requirements.

Light's Retention Scale should be considered for deciding whether or not a student should be retained.

F. APPEALS OF PROMOTION DECISIONS**1. Appeal to the Superintendent**

Within five workdays of receiving the principal's written decision to promote or retain a student, the student's parents may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may overturn the principal's decision only upon a finding that the principal's decision was arbitrary and capricious (i.e., without a rational basis) or was otherwise an abuse of discretion.

The superintendent must render a decision within 10 workdays of receiving the appeal. The superintendent may support the principal's decision, remand it back to the principal for consideration of additional issues or reverse the decision.

The superintendent's findings must be in writing and must be provided to the parents.

2. Appeal to the Board of Education

The superintendent's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed to the board in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection E.5 of policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure.

G. PROMOTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To the extent possible, students with disabilities must be held to the same promotion standards as all other students. However, for students who take alternative assessments in lieu of the end-of-grade (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) tests, promotion decisions must be based on criteria recommended by the IEP team.

All intervention strategies and other opportunities, benefits and resources that are made available to students without disabilities must be made available to those students with disabilities who are subject to the student promotion standards. Such opportunities must be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

H. PROMOTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

To the extent possible, students with limited English proficiency will be held to the same standards as all other students.

All intervention and other opportunities, benefits, and resources that are made available to other students must be made available to students with limited English proficiency who participate in the student promotion standards.

I. CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY

The superintendent, or designee, shall provide opportunities for students in grades 9 through 12 to earn course credit by demonstrating mastery of course material without first completing the regular period of classroom instruction in the course. Students in middle school may earn credit by demonstrated mastery for high school courses offered in middle school. To earn credit by demonstrated mastery, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge through a multi-phase assessment, in accordance with standards established by the State Board of Education and any additional standards established by the superintendent.

J. REPEATING A COURSE FOR CREDIT

1. Repeating a Previously Failed Course

As provided in State Board of Education policy CCRE-001, high school students who fail a course for credit may repeat that course. To take advantage of this option, the student must repeat the entire course. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year,

when a student initially fails a high school course and successfully repeats the course for credit, the new course grade will replace the original failing grade for the course on the student's transcript and in calculations of the student's GPA, class rank, and honor roll eligibility. The superintendent may develop procedures for students to indicate their intent to repeat a course for credit under this paragraph and may establish any other rules as necessary and consistent with State Board policy.

2. Repeating a Course for which Credit was Earned (Grade Replacement)

The board recognizes that high school students may need to repeat a course for which they have earned credit in order to increase their understanding of the course content, to improve skill mastery, or to meet postsecondary goals. Students may repeat a course for which they have previously earned credit, subject to the following preconditions and any other reasonable rules established by the superintendent:

- a. the student must make a written request to repeat the course;
- b. the principal or designee must approve the request;
- c. there must be space available after seats have been assigned to students who are taking the course for the first time or repeating a previously failed course;
- d. the course to be repeated must be a duplicate of the original class and course number and must be taken during the regular school day at a high school in this school system or through the North Carolina Virtual Public School;
- e. upon completion of the repeated course, the higher course grade, current or original mark, will be used on the student's transcript and in calculations of the student's GPA, class rank, and honor roll eligibility;
- f. credit towards graduation for the repeated course will be given only once;
- g. a course may be repeated only one time; and
- h. students may repeat a maximum of four previously passed courses during their high school careers.

The superintendent shall require notice to students and parents of these preconditions and of any other relevant information deemed advisable by the superintendent.

K. ACCELERATION

Some students may need less time to learn the curriculum. The Board recognizes our responsibility to provide an array of services that maximizes the potential of each of these students. Teachers are encouraged to challenge these students by expanding the curriculum, providing opportunities to explore subjects in greater detail or providing different types of educational experiences. Differentiated programs and services may be provided through such strategies as appropriate classroom groupings, increased pace instruction, challenging subject classes, differentiated units, content modification, subject advancement, grade skipping, alternative products, enrichment opportunities, curriculum compacting, or individual projects and contracts. To challenge a student sufficiently, the principal may reassign the student to a different class or level of study and/or may identify concurrent enrollment or other curriculum expansion options (see policy 3101, Dual Enrollment).

L. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**1. Superintendent's Report to the Board**

At least on an annual basis, the superintendent shall provide the board with the following information for each school:

- a. aggregate student performance scores on state-mandated tests and any other standardized tests used by a school or the school system;
- b. the number and percentage of students retained and/or not meeting the standards for their grade level;
- c. the number and percentage of third grade students exempt from mandatory third grade retention by category of exemption as listed in state law; and
- d. remedial or additional educational opportunities provided by the school system and the success of these efforts in helping students meet promotion standards.

2. Report to the North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction

Pursuant to statutory requirements and standards established by the Department of Public Instruction, all required information regarding student performance will be provided annually to the Department.

3. Publication on the School System Website

Information about the reading performance of third grade students will be posted on the school system website in accordance with state law.

M. NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

The superintendent or designee shall provide information regarding promotion standards to all students and parents. In addition, if a kindergarten, first grade, second grade or third grade student (1) is demonstrating difficulty with reading development; (2) is not reading at grade level; or (3) has an individual growth plan under G.S. 115C-105.41, the student's teacher shall provide the student's parents timely written notice advising that if the student is not demonstrating reading proficiency by the end of third grade, the student will be retained, unless exempt from mandatory retention for good cause. Parents are encouraged to help their children meet the promotion standards and will have opportunities to discuss the promotion standards and procedures with teachers and the principal. Information provided to parents should be in the parents' native language when appropriate foreign language resources are readily available.

The teacher of a student who does not meet promotion standards must notify the student's parents that the student has failed to meet the standards for progression to the next level of study and must provide the parents with information concerning retesting, intervention, review and appeal opportunities. When a student is to be retained, the principal shall provide the student's parents written notice of the retention and, if the student will be retained in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.7(a) for failure to demonstrate reading proficiency, (1) written notice of the reason the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption as provided in G.S. 115C-83.7(b) and (2) a description of proposed reading interventions that will be provided to the student to remediate identified areas of reading deficiency. Teachers shall provide parents of students retained under G.S. 115C-83.7(a) at least monthly written reports on student progress toward reading proficiency. The evaluation of a student's progress will be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, assessments and other relevant information.

N. CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES

As required by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5) and policy 4155, Assignment to Classes, school administrators have the authority to exercise flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for the placement of children of military families in courses or programs offered by the school system.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -45(c), -47, -81, -83.2, -83.7, -83.8, -83.9, 83.10, -105.21, -174.11, -288(a), -407.5; State Board of Education Policy CCRE-001, KNEC-002, KNEC-003

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Concurrent Enrollment and Other Curriculum Expansions (policy 3101), Students At-Risk of Academic Failure (policy 3405), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Graduation Requirements (policy 3460), Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Students At Risk of Academic Failure (Policy 3405), Assignment to Classes (policy 4155), Fiscal Management Standards (policy 8300)

Other Resources: *Guidelines for Testing Students Identified as English Learners*, (N.C. Department of Public Instruction) available at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/accountability/policyoperations/lep/testinglep1314.pdf>; *North Carolina Read to Achieve: A Guide to Implementing House Bill 950/S.L. 2012-143 Section 7A* (N.C. Department of Public Instruction), available at <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/k-3literacy/resources/guidebook.pdf>

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