
Board of Education Hardyston Township

STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION

I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes that each child develops and grows in a unique pattern and that students should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their social, physical, and educational needs. Each student enrolled in this school district shall be moved forward in a continuous program of learning in harmony with his or her own development. The promotion or retention of a student is to be based upon the student's classroom performance the previous school year.

II. CRITERIA FOR STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION

- A. It is the policy of the School Board to maintain a standard of student promotion that relates to the school district's goals, objectives, and student proficiency;
- B. Student attendance shall be a factor in the determination of a student's promotion or retention. Only extenuating circumstances should permit the promotion of a student who has been in attendance fewer than 160 days during the school year.
- C. **Elementary School:** A student in the elementary grades (K-5) shall be promoted to the next succeeding grade level when:
 - (1) he or she has completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade;
 - (2) he or she has achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
 - (3) he or she has demonstrated the proficiencies required for movement into the educational program of the next grade;
 - (4) and he or she has demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade;
 - (5) other considerations are the student's parental support, prior retentions and probable effect of promotion or retention upon the student.

D. **Middle School:** Students in grades 6-8 whose final average in any two (2) academic courses are failing grades will be retained. The following factors may also be considered in determining promotion/retention of a student:

- (1) ability level;
- (2) attendance in conjunction with poor classroom performance;
- (3) chronological age in relation to the normal grade/age group;
- (4) prior retentions;
- (5) delayed/advanced physical development;
- (6) maturity in emotional and social development;
- (7) work and study habits;
- (8) student and parent attitude;
- (9) parental support.

III. SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM / REMEDIATION

A student who has been retained at grade level may be promoted upon successful completion of an approved summer school program for the course(s) failed. The student's academic performance shall be reassessed at the end of the remediation program and the decision to retain or promote shall be re-evaluated at that time.

IV. PROMOTION/RETENTION STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS IN BILINGUAL/ESL PROGRAMS

The promotion/retention standards for students in bilingual/ESL programs are addressed in the school district's policy on English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural.

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The promotion/retention standards of students receiving special education and related services are addressed in the student's Individualized Education Plan in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

VI. GRADUATION

Students who are to be promoted to the ninth grade must satisfy regulations for promotion from the eighth grade. Students must meet the established State graduation proficiency standards. Eighth grade students who are to be retained will not be allowed to participate in graduation practices or ceremony.

VII. PARENTAL NOTICE

The School Administration shall distribute a copy of this policy to all parents and all pupils in all grades at the beginning of each school year.

VIII. LEGAL REFERENCES

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-24
N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-2
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9
N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.2
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et. seq.

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