

Standards of Learning Tests and Graduation Requirements:  
Promotion/Retention Guidelines for Grades K-5

These promotion and retention guidelines are intended to help school staff assess students' readiness for the next grade. These guidelines are not intended to serve as rigid grade level competency requirements, but rather, as a guide to aid decision-making.

Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade when, in the judgment of the district's professional staff, it is in the best educational interest of the student. Although parental input will be considered, the final decision to promote a student rests with the school administration.

Promotion/retention decisions will be considered by a school level committee; comprised of the principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, and the student's teacher(s). The final decision will be made by the principal.

Parents who wish to appeal the principal's decision shall direct their appeal in writing to the superintendent.

Special Considerations:

- 1) The attendance history of the student;
- 2) The presence of a disability;
- 3) The status of English Language Learner; and
- 4) Participation in intervention programs.

Retention should be used as a last resort. Students who demonstrate difficulty in achieving grade level standards will be provided appropriate intervention.

## **Promotion Guidelines: Kindergarten**

The student considered for promotion to first grade demonstrates:

### **Literacy development**

- Knowledge of most letter names and many of their corresponding sounds;
- Ability to use their knowledge of sounds and letters to write some words phonetically and read some words on their own;
- An understanding of phonemic awareness (ability to hear and say the separate sounds in words);
- An understanding of the concepts of print (e.g., how to hold a book, how print is read from left to right and top to bottom of a page, concept of word); and
- Consistency in performance (75%) of the English Standards of Learning teacher assessment, and Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)

### **Math**

- An ability to count, recognize and write numbers;
- Understanding of number concepts using concrete objects;
- Consistency in performance (75%) of the Math Standards of Learning; and teacher Assessment

### **Social, emotional and physical maturity commensurate with age and grade, including:**

- Ability to communicate with others; and
- Ability to follow one or two step directions

## Promotion and Retention Guidelines: First and Second Grade

The student considered for promotion in grades one and two demonstrates:

### Reading

- Reading on grade level as evidenced by satisfactory completion of a majority (75%) of the reading objectives contained in the English Standards of Learning, and teacher assessment
- and/or**
- Receive a satisfactory score on at least one of the following indicators:  
Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)  
Qualitative Reading Inventory  
Developmental Spelling Assessment (DSA)

### Math

- Performance on grade level in math, as evidenced by satisfactory completion of the majority (75%) of the objectives contained in the Math Standards of Learning and teacher assessment
- and/or**
- Receive a satisfactory score on the following indicator:  
Cumulative Math Assessment

### English

- Performance on grade level in English, as evidenced by satisfactory completion of the majority (75%) of the objectives contained in the English Standards of Learning and teacher assessment

### Social, emotional and/or physical maturity commensurate with age/grade, including:

- Participates in group activities; displaying age/grade appropriate behaviors;
- Works independently when given an appropriate task;
- Handles challenges and frustrations appropriately;
- Demonstrates age/grade appropriate eye-hand coordination and motor control.

**\*Note:** Students must demonstrate proficiency in both language arts and math.

## Promotion Guidelines: Third through Fifth Grades

The student considered for promotion in grades three through five demonstrates:

### Reading

- Earn a final grade of “C” or higher in reading and show consistent performance on teacher assessment
- and/or**
- Receive a satisfactory score on at least one of the following indicators:
    - PALS
    - Qualitative Reading Inventory
    - DSA (Developmental Spelling Assessment)
    - Gates – MacGinite Reading Test
- and/or**
- Earn a passing score of 400 or higher on the English: Reading, Literature & Research Standards of Learning Assessment

### Math

- Earn a final grade of “C” or higher in math and show consistent performance on teacher assessment
- and/or**
- Earn a passing score of 400 or higher on the Math Standards of Learning Assessment

### English

- Earn a final grade of “C” or higher in English and show consistent performance on teacher assessment
- and/or**
- Earn a passing score of 400 or higher on the English: Reading, Literature & Research Standards of Learning Assessment.
  - (Fifth Grade Only) Earn a passing score of 400 or higher on the Writing Standards of Learning Test.

## Science

- Earn a final grade of “C” or higher in Science and show consistent performance on teacher assessments
- and/or**
- Earn a passing score of 400 or higher on the Science Standards of Learning Assessment (only grades 3 and 5)

## History

- Earn a final grade of “C” or higher in History and show consistent performance on teacher assessments
- and/or**
- Earn a passing score of 400 or higher on the History Standards of Learning Assessment (only grades 3 and 5)

## **Social, emotional and/or physical maturity commensurate with age/grade, including:**

- Participates in group activities; displaying age/grade appropriate behavior;
- Works independently when given an appropriate task;
- Handles challenges and frustrations appropriately;
- Demonstrates age/grade appropriate eye-hand coordination and motor control.

**\*Note:** Students must demonstrate proficiency in both Language Arts & Math, as well as one other subject (Science or History).

Adopted: March 23, 2009