



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** First Reading of Policy EIE (LOCAL): Academic Achievement – Retention and Promotion

**SUBMITTED BY:** Guadalupe Gorordo, Ph.D, Assoc. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** May 16, 2012

**Recommendation:** To effectively reclassify graduating juniors as seniors during the fall semester when they declare their intent to graduate early for purposes of class ranking.

**Rationale:**

**Budgetary Information:**

**Board Policy Reference and Compliance:**

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

EIE  
(LOCAL)

CURRICULUM  
MASTERY

Promotion and course credit shall be based on mastery of the curriculum. Expectations and standards for promotion shall be established for each grade level, content area, and course and shall be coordinated with compensatory/accelerated services. [See EHBC]

STANDARDS FOR  
MASTERY

In addition to the factors in law that must be considered for promotion, mastery shall be determined as follows:

1. Course assignments and unit evaluation shall be used to determine student grades in a subject. An average of 70 or higher shall be considered a passing grade.
2. Mastery of the skills necessary for success at the next level shall be validated by assessments that may either be incorporated into unit or final examinations or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives shall be required.

GRADES 1–8

In grades 1–8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in three of the following areas: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

GRADES 9–12

Grade-level advancement for students in grades 9–12 shall be earned by course credits. [See EI]

Changes in grade-level classification shall be made at the beginning of the fall semester. Juniors who are graduation candidates shall declare in the fall their intent to graduate early for purposes of class ranking and all other senior activities. ~~These students shall be classified as seniors at the beginning of the spring semester.~~  
[See EI]

STUDENTS WITH  
DISABILITIES

Promotion standards and appropriate assessment and acceleration options, as established by individualized education programs (IEP) or grade-level classification of students eligible for special education, shall be determined by the ARD committee.

LIMITED ENGLISH  
PROFICIENT  
STUDENTS

In assessing students of limited English proficiency for mastery of the essential knowledge and skills, the District shall be flexible in determining methods to allow the students to demonstrate knowledge or competency independent of their English language skills in the following ways:

1. Assessment in the primary language.
2. Assessment using ESL methodologies.
3. Assessment with multiple varied instruments. [See EHBE]

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

EIE  
(LOCAL)

ACCELERATED  
INSTRUCTION FOR  
GRADES 3–8

If a student in grades 3–8 fails to demonstrate proficiency on a state-mandated assessment, the student shall be provided accelerated instruction in accordance with state law. Additionally, students in grades 5 and 8 shall be subject to all provisions of GRADE ADVANCEMENT TESTING below.

GRADE  
ADVANCEMENT  
TESTING

In addition to local standards for mastery and promotion, students in grades 5 and 8 must meet the passing standard on an applicable assessment instrument in the subjects required under state law in order to be promoted to the next grade.

DEFINITION OF  
'PARENT'

For purposes of this policy and decisions related to grade advancement requirements, a student's "parent" shall be defined to include either of the student's parents or guardians; a person designated by the parent, by means of a Power of Attorney or an authorization agreement as provided in Section 34 of the Family Code, to have responsibility for the student in all school-related matters [see FD]; a surrogate parent acting on behalf of a student with a disability; a person designated by the parent or guardian to serve on the grade placement committee (GPC) for all purposes; or in the event that a parent, guardian, or designee cannot be located, a person designated by the Superintendent or designee to act on behalf of the student. [See EIE(LEGAL)]

ALTERNATE  
ASSESSMENT  
INSTRUMENT

The Superintendent or designee shall select from the state-approved list, if available, for each applicable subject an alternate assessment instrument that may be used for the third testing opportunity. Each student's GPC shall decide whether he or she shall be given the statewide assessment instrument or the applicable alternate instrument for the third testing opportunity. The committee's decision shall be based on a review of the student's performance in the previous testing opportunities, local assessments, and any other circumstances it deems appropriate.

STANDARDS FOR  
PROMOTION UPON  
APPEAL

If a parent initiates an appeal of his or her child's retention, the GPC shall review all facts and circumstances in accordance with law.

The student shall not be promoted unless:

1. All members of the GPC agree that the student is likely to perform on grade level if given additional accelerated instruction during the following school year in accordance with the educational plan developed by the GPC;
2. The student has completed required accelerated instruction in the subject area for which the student failed to demonstrate proficiency; and

3. The student completes any required accelerated instruction provided through summer school, with a minimum attendance rate of 90 percent for the subject area for which the student failed to demonstrate proficiency before consideration for placement in the next grade level.

Whether the GPC decides to promote or to retain a student in this manner, the committee shall determine an accelerated instruction plan for the student for the following school year, providing for interim reports to the student's parent and opportunities for the parent to consult with the teacher or principal as needed. The principal or designee shall monitor the student's progress during the following school year to ensure that he or she is progressing in accordance with the plan.

TRANSFER  
STUDENTS

When a student transfers into the District having failed to demonstrate proficiency on applicable assessment instruments after two testing opportunities, a GPC shall convene for that student. The GPC shall review any available records of decisions regarding testing and accelerated instruction from the previous district and determine an accelerated instruction plan for the student.

If a parent initiates an appeal for promotion when a student transfers into the District having failed to demonstrate proficiency after three testing opportunities, the GPC shall review any available records of decisions regarding testing, accelerated instruction, retention, or promotion from the previous district and issue a decision in accordance with the District's standards for promotion.

ASSIGNMENT OF  
RETAINED STUDENTS

In the event a student is not promoted to the next grade level, the District shall assign the student nevertheless to an age-appropriate campus. Criteria to be considered for this decision may include:

1. Recommendations from the student's teachers.
2. Observed social and emotional development of the student.

REDUCING STUDENT  
RETENTION

The District shall establish procedures designed to reduce retaining students at a grade level, with the ultimate goal being elimination of the practice of retaining students. [See EHBC]

PARENT REQUEST

Parental requests to retain students who have met promotion requirements shall be denied unless a recommendation for retention is made by the student's ARD committee in accordance with federal requirements.