

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	Mastery shall be determined as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>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 exams or may be administered separately. Mastery of at least 70 percent of the objectives shall be required.</li></ol>
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]
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 PROFICIENCY 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]

**STUDENT  
SUCCESS  
INITIATIVE**

In addition to local standards for mastery and promotion, students in grades 3, 5, and 8 must meet the passing standard established by the State Board 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 the student success initiative, 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, 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 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 following the student's failure to demonstrate proficiency after the third testing opportunity, the GPC shall review all facts and circumstances in accordance with law and shall apply the following standards in deciding to promote or retain the student:

1. Evidence of satisfactory student performance, including grades, portfolios, work samples, local assessments, previous state assessments, or individual reading or mathematics diagnostic tests or inventories, as appropriate;
2. Improvement in student test performance over the three testing opportunities;
3. Extenuating circumstances that may have adversely affected

the student's participation in instruction, required assessments, or accelerated instruction; and

4. Consideration of whether a student was not enrolled in a Texas public school for part of the school year.

If 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, the student shall be promoted.

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

~~Students not promoted to the next grade level shall be assigned to the same or a similar campus setting.~~

**In the event a student is not promoted to the next grade level, the District shall nevertheless assign the student to an age-appropriate campus, unless:**

1. **The student's parent requests that the student be assigned to the same or a similar campus setting; or**
2. **The student's Grade Placement Committee (GPC) determines that it would be in the student's best interest to be assigned to the same or a similar campus setting. Criteria to be considered for this decision may include:**

- a. Recommendations from the student's teachers.
- b. Observed social and emotional development of the student.

AND

This provision shall apply only when:

- 1. A student who is 10 years old is retained in grade 3;
- 2. A student who is 12 years old is retained in grade 5; or when
- 3. A student who is 15 years old is retained in grade 8.

**ASSIGNMENT  
OF RETAINED  
STUDENTS  
NOT A PART  
OF STUDENT  
SUCCESS  
INITIATIVE  
GRADE  
LEVELS:  
INCLUDES  
GRADES –  
K,1,2,4,6,7**

The district recognizes that retention/promotion is a decision based on an individual student's needs. The determination of the student's needs shall consider, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1. *Mastery of grade-level essential knowledge and skills.*
- 2. *Previous retentions.*
- 3. *Chronological age.*
- 4. *Maturational development.*
- 5. *Attendance record.*
- 6. *Experiential background*
- 7. *Estimation of a students ability and achievement.*
- 8. *The students motivation and attitude.*

The principal shall confer with the classroom teacher in instances in which decisions in promotion or retention differ. The final decision for retention shall be determined by the principal.

**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]

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