

Instruction

Grading and Promotion ¹

The Superintendent shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians. ² The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, and performance based on the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and/or other testing assessments. ³ A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance. ⁴ The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted. ⁵

Every teacher shall maintain an evaluation record for each student in the teacher's classroom. A District administrator cannot change the final grade assigned by the teacher without notifying the teacher. ⁶ Reasons for changing a student's final grade include:

- A miscalculation of test scores,
- A technical error in assigning a particular grade or score,
- The teacher agrees to allow the student to do extra work that may impact the grade,
- An inappropriate grading system used to determine the grade, or
- An inappropriate grade based on an appropriate grading system.

Should a grade change be made, the administrator making the change must sign the changed record.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ State law requires districts to have a school board policy containing the reasons for which a grade may be changed and prohibiting social promotion (105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a). State ~~or federal~~ law controls this policy's content.

If a district uses weighted grades for classes by degree of difficulty, it must be reflected in the affected students' class ranking and permanent records (105 ILCS 5/27-27).

² Absent a court order to the contrary, upon the request of either parent of a student whose parents are divorced, copies of report cards, along with other notices and records, must be furnished to both parents by the district (105 ILCS 5/10-21.8).

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a. Each board may determine its own promotion criteria and augment the statute's criteria.

Until July 1, 2014, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64 contained the State assessment program; it was repealed by P.A. 98-972. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5, added by P.A. 98-972, requires ISBE to "establish the academic standards that are to be applicable to students who are subject to State assessments." It contains the schedule for assessing students by calendar year and grade. ISBE selected the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) as the State assessment and accountability measure.

⁴ Id.

⁵ ~~105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64, amended by P.A. 97-86, addresses remedial assistance for students who are 2 or more grades below current placement 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a.~~

⁶ The specific reasons and procedure for changing a grade are at the local board's discretion; however, State law provides that no grade may be changed without notification to the teacher concerning the nature and reason for the change (105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a). The person making the change must assume all responsibility and must initial the change (Id.).

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS ~~5/2-3.64~~ 5/2-3.64a-5, 5/10-20.9a, 5/10-21.8, and 5/27-27.

CROSS REF.: 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)