

Instruction

Grading and Promotion¹

The Superintendent or designee 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 on the standardized tests required by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) and/or other 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

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 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. If a student is in the legal custody of the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS), copies must be furnished to the DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services. 105 ILCS 5/10-21.8, ~~amended by P.A. 102-199.~~

³ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a, ~~amended by P.A. 104-391.~~ Each board may determine its own promotion criteria and augment the statute's criteria. ~~105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a(e) and (d), added by P.A. 102-727, and inoperative "on and after three years" from 5-6-22, prohibits public high schools from withholding a student's grades, transcripts, or diploma because of an unpaid balance on the student's school account. Given potential different interpretations, the exact date on which this law expires is unclear; consult the board attorney for guidance on this issue. See also 105 ILCS 5/28-19.2, which prohibits student punishment of any kind, including the lowering of grades, if a parent/guardian is unable to pay school fees. Note: P.A. 104-391 purported to both amend and repeal 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a. It is IASB's understanding that the repeal of this provision was in error and will be addressed if needed; it is therefore retained in this sample policy.~~

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64 contained the State assessment program until it was repealed by P.A. 98-972.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a, ~~amended by P.A. 103-175,~~ requires ISBE to "develop standards for student performance, such as proficiency levels on State assessments." 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(b) 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 selects standardized tests for the State assessment and accountability measure. In House Joint Resolution 54 (2015), members of the Ill. House and Senate encouraged school districts to not use results of the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers* (PARCC) test for the 2014-2015 through the 2017-2018 school years "as a determining factor for making decisions about a student's educational opportunities, the evaluation of educators, and the allocation of resources based on educational achievement on this assessment." Starting in 2019, PARCC was no longer used by ISBE.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(c) requires that the assessment administered by ISBE for the purpose of student application to or admissions consideration by institutions of higher education be administered on a school day during regular student attendance hours. Assessments are not required if ISBE receives a waiver from the administration of assessments from the U.S. Dept. of Education. Id.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5(e) no longer requires that the scores attained by a student on an assessment that includes a college and career readiness determination be entered on the student's transcript; however, the scores must still be placed in the student's permanent record. See also 23 Ill.Admin.Code §375.10.

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a(b).

⁵ Id.

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.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 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), 6:340 (Student Testing and Assessment Program), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools)

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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(a). The person making the change must assume all responsibility and must initial the change. Id.