

District Policy & Regulations

BOARD OF EDUCATION COLUMBUS SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS
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PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION

Grades K-3, 5, 6, 7

In general, all children should be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially, and emotionally. The educational program shall provide for the continuous progress of the children from grade to grade, with the child spending one (1) year in each grade.

A small number of children may benefit from spending a second year in the same year. Such retention may be considered when:

- A. a child is achieving significantly below ability and grade level;
- B. retention would have a reasonable chance of benefiting the child.
- C. interventions have proven unsuccessful.

Assignment is the placement of a student in the next grade level, as would normally occur from one (1) year to another, with the understanding that the student is not academically ready for the next grade level, but other factors indicate that neither promotion nor retention would be in the child's best interest. Such assignment may be considered when:

- A. a child has been retained in a previous grade, but is still not achieving a minimum grade level;
- B. a child lacks general satisfactory progress;
- C. physical or emotional factors may cause undue adjustment problems if the child were retained;

Whenever assignment or retention is being considered, but no later than the third quarter, the teacher shall confer with the Principal and other staff members involved with the child, such as the child's special teachers and counselors. The parents shall be invited to a meeting with the teacher, and/or staff members to discuss the child's current academic standing in relation to the group and his/her own individual ability. During the fourth quarter, another meeting will be held to review the student's progress. At this time the final decision regarding assignment or retention will be made. Parents will receive a letter of confirmation at the end of the fourth quarter.

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ACCELERATION

The Board strongly urges the staff to see that all roadblocks are cleared from the path of learners and that they are assisted in moving ahead as rapidly as they wish and can. While acceleration ahead of grade should be approached with caution, gifted or capable students may be so advanced, but only after thorough discussion with each student's guidance counselor and with the joint approval of parents, principal, and the Superintendent.

Grade Promotion Requirements for Grade 4

To be considered for grade advancement from 4th to 5th grade in the Columbus School District, the student must satisfy the criteria as outlined below. If the student meets the academic performance criterion, the student is eligible to advance to the fifth grade level. If the academic performance criterion is not met, the student's test score is reviewed. If the student meets the test score criterion, the student is eligible to advance to the fifth grade level. If the student does not meet the test score criterion, the student needs to secure teacher recommendation. If the student meets the teacher recommendation criterion, the student is eligible to advance to the fifth grade level. If the student does not meet the teacher recommendation criterion, the student must complete an individualized promotion plan developed by the school staff. If the promotion plan is not completed satisfactorily, then the student is retained.

Criteria for Promotion

Academic Performance:

- ❑ Student must receive a passing final grade in all core academic area subjects (Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies).

TEST SCORE

- ❑ Student must score basic or above in Reading, Language, Math, Science, and Social Studies on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam.

Teacher Recommendation:

- ❑ The student's homeroom teacher must recommend promotion based on the student's performance and input from support teachers, allied arts teachers, and the building principal.

Individualized Promotion Plan:

- ❑ The building principal, a guidance counselor and the homeroom teacher will develop an individualized plan for the student. The plan will be shared with the student and their parent/guardian with a specified completion date. If the plan is not successfully completed by the date specified the student is retained.

These 4th grade requirements became effective July 1, 2002.

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Grade Promotion Requirements for Grade 8

To be considered for grade advancement from 8th to 9th grade in the Columbus School District, the student must satisfy the criteria as outlined below. If the student meets the academic performance criterion, the student is eligible to advance to the ninth grade level. If the academic performance criterion is not met, the student's test score is reviewed. If the student meets the test score criterion, the student is eligible to advance to the ninth grade level. If the student does not meet the test score criterion, the student needs to secure teacher recommendation. If the student meets the teacher recommendation criterion, the student is eligible to advance to the ninth grade level. If the student does not meet the teacher recommendation criterion, the student must complete an individualized promotion plan developed by the school staff. If the promotion plan is not completed satisfactorily, then the student is retained.

Criteria for Promotion

Academic Performance:

- ❑ Student must receive a passing final grade in all core academic area subjects (Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies).

TEST SCORE

- ❑ Student must score basic or above in Reading, Language, Math, Science, and Social Studies on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam.

Teacher Recommendation

- ❑ The student must receive two (2) written recommendations from 8th grade teachers of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies that the student be promoted to ninth grade.

Individualized Promotion Plan

- ❑ The building principal, a guidance counselor and the homeroom teacher will develop an individualized plan for the student. The plan will be shared with the student and their parent/guardian with a specified completion date. If the plan is not successfully completed by the date specified the student is retained.

These 8th grade requirements become effective July 1, 2002.

ADOPTED: 06/09/98

Revised: 06/26/00, 03/08/01, 02/08/07