

PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS

It is the Board's intent to provide sequential instructional programming that provides equitable opportunity for students to acquire the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results at each grade level. The Board recognizes that at every grade level, there are differences among students in their intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development and that individual students may be more proficient in some content areas of the Learning Results than in others.

While most students will advance from one grade to another at the end of the academic year, some students may benefit from retention or acceleration. Assignment of a student to a grade level should be consistent with the best educational interest of that student.

Board members should be aware that certification of students as having met the content standards of the system of Learning Results at a particular grade level or grade span is a concept that is related to but different from grade placement. Students may meet some standards and not others but still advance to the next level based on other considerations.

A. Criteria

The following criteria will be used in making decisions concerning promotion, retention, and acceleration. Although all listed criteria may be considered in the decision-making process, because of the relationship between a student's achievement of the content standards of the system of Learning Results and his/her future success in school, more consideration shall be given to the criterion articulated in subparagraph "1" below than to any other factors.

1. Achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results as demonstrated through classroom assessments, common assessments, standardized tests, and other elements of the Local Assessment System;
2. Participation and success in remedial programs, tutoring, summer school, and/or other opportunities for success;
3. Potential benefit from repetition of a grade or learning experiences;
4. Potential for success if accelerated;
5. Attendance;
6. Social and emotional maturity;
7. Health;
8. Age in relation to grade placement;
9. Program options;
10. Student attitude; and
11. Parental/guardian concerns.

B. Retention

Parents should be notified as early as possible in the event that retention is being considered. Parents will be informed of the remediation options available to students such as tutoring, after-school programs, and summer school. Whenever possible, decisions concerning retention should be made through a conference involving parents/guardians, the student's teacher(s), the building principal, and, as appropriate, the guidance counselor, other professional staff, and/or consultant. Advancement to the next grade may be made

conditional on successful remediation or demonstrated proficiency within a specified period of time.

The principal and parents shall be mutually responsible for making the final decision regarding retention. Additionally, students will be referred to the school's Response to Intervention (RTI) team if retention is considered.

C. Acceleration

Decisions regarding acceleration shall be made mutually by the principal and in consultation with the student's teacher(s). A parent who is dissatisfied with the principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

D. High-School Grade-Level Assignment

Successful completion of the requirements specified by the Board, and demonstrated achievement of the mandated content standards of the system of Learning Results will be required for a high school diploma.

However, the high-school grade-level assignment will be based on the number of credits/courses successfully completed prior to the beginning of the current school year.

For sophomore status, a student must have successfully completed a minimum of 5 credits/courses; for junior status, a minimum of 11 credits/courses; and for senior status, a minimum of 17 credits/courses. A minimum of twenty-four (24) credits are required for graduation.

E. Transfer Students

For students who transfer into the school system from another state or educational program not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the principal will determine the value of the student's prior educational experience for the purpose of grade placement or the fulfillment of credits.

Legal Reference: Ch. 127 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Approved: 11/07/13