

STUDENT PROMOTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Purpose

The New Hanover County Board of Education (Board) believes that all students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of their current curriculum level.

Standard for Progression

The Superintendent, as the Board's executive officer, shall establish standards and a process for determining a student's readiness to progress to the next level of study. The assessment standards for determining a student's readiness may include standardized tests, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student's work, Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM), and appropriate data for assessing developmental growth. Career and Technical Education Students who earn a credential that is approved under Department of Public Instruction guidelines as evidence of technical skill attainment will not be required to take the CTE Post-Assessment in the course. Principals shall ensure that the standards are used by teachers and school administrators in assessing each student's readiness to progress to the next level of study. **Principals have the statutory authority to promote and retain students based upon the standards set by the Board and the State Board of Education.**

Elementary and Middle School Standards

The Board believes that decisions relative to student promotion should be based on multiple indicators. Since teachers are uniquely qualified to make judgments relative to promotion, they shall be responsible for making a recommendation to the principal. Factors to be considered in this decision shall include the following, but not be limited to,: student classroom performance, teacher assessment results, county assessment results, and required state standardized tests. A recommendation for promotion shall be an indicator that the teacher believes the student is capable and prepared to achieve at the next grade level. A decision not to promote shall occur only by documented evaluations throughout the year and after consultation with the principal and other appropriate professional personnel.

Multiple criteria for assessing students' readiness in reading, writing, and mathematics shall be used as the basis for promotional decisions in Grades K-2. Students who do not meet the promotion standards shall be provided remediation and reassessment.

To be promoted in Grades 3-8, students must meet state guidelines for promotion. The promotion status of students who are not proficient in reading, mathematics, and science after receiving remediation shall be determined by the school principal or the Superintendent.

High School Standards

Promotion from Grade to Grade

High school students are promoted from grade to grade based on the total number of credits earned. To be classified as a tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade student, they shall have earned the following number of credits prior to the beginning of the next school year:

- Tenth Grade.....6 credits
(with 2 required credits – Mathematics, English, Science and/or Social Studies)
- Eleventh Grade.....12 credits
- Twelfth Grade.....20 credits

Promotion and Graduation

The total number of credits required for graduation from a high school in New Hanover County Schools is based upon the number of opportunities to earn course credit offered by the school(s) the student has attended. To determine the number of credits a student needs to graduate, subtract four (4) from the total course opportunities available to the student at their school(s).

In rare circumstances, a reduced elective credit high school diploma option may be considered for at-risk students who are experiencing difficulty meeting the specified local requirements of elective credits for graduation. High school principals shall have the right to explore this option with a student, their parent/guardian, the school counselor, and at least one other school representative. Standardized procedures and guidelines for all New Hanover County high schools shall be adhered to when this option is utilized.

Students may receive credit for some high school courses by passing two phases of Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM). Phase I requires students to demonstrate foundational knowledge through an End-of-Course test, North Carolina Final Exam (NCFE) or locally designed assessment. Phase II requires students to develop an artifact that demonstrates deep understanding of course content. CDM shall be awarded to students passing Phase I and Phase II without any requirement of seat time.

Each student shall complete the courses listed below for graduation and the appropriate number of electives. (Students enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study have different course requirements.)

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Units Required</u>
English	4 units
Mathematics	4 units One (1) unit must be NC Math 1; one (1) unit must be NC Math 2; One (1) unit shall be NC Math 3
Science	3 units One (1) unit must be Earth and Environmental Science; one (1) unit must be Biology; one (1) unit must be a physical science. (The physical sciences include Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics.)

Social Studies	4 units For students who entered high school in the 2012-2013 school year – one (1) unit must be World History; one (1) unit must be Civics & Economics; one (1) unit must be American History I; and one (1) unit must be American History II. <i>*Advanced Placement United States History may be substituted in the place of American History I and American History II. However, students shall receive only one (1) academic credit for AP US History. Students electing to take AP US History instead of American History I and II shall need to take one (1) additional social studies elective in order to fulfill the state requirement of four (4) social studies credits to graduate. An additional social studies AP course may be taken to fulfill this requirement.</i>
Physical Ed/Health	1 unit

Electives 5-14 units

Promotion Standards for Students in the Future Ready Occupational Course of Study (FROCS)

Students with disabilities enrolled in the North Carolina Future Ready Occupational Course of Study (OCS) are required to meet the following course requirements (designated as OCS by the course code) or the standard Future-Ready course equivalent:

- English I, II, III, IV
- Introduction to Mathematics I
- Math I
- Financial Management
- Applied Science
- Biology
- Social Studies
 - ◆ American History I and II
(Students entering 9th grade for the first time in 2017-18) American History: Founding Principals, Civics, and Economics and either American History I or American History II
- Preparation I, II, III, IV
- Four Career/Technical Education
- Health/Physical Education
- 150 hours school based training
- 225 hours community based training
- 225 hours paid employment or vocational training

A student successfully completing the Future Ready Occupational Course of Study shall earn at least 22 credits and work hours as defined above for graduation from New Hanover County Schools.

Promotion Standards for Student with Disabilities

The Board believes that to the extent possible, students with disabilities shall be held to the same standards as all other students. Appropriate intervention and other opportunities, benefits, and resources shall be made available to students with disabilities who participate in the promotion standards. Such opportunities shall be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

A student with a disability and an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who participates in the state standard course of study must participate in the state-testing program with or without accommodations, as determined by the IEP Team.

A student with a disability and an IEP may be excused from the promotion standards by the IEP Team, if it is determined that the student does not have the ability to participate in the state standard course of study. Such excused students must have a serious cognitive impairment, be enrolled in a functional curriculum and provided state alternate assessments. **A student who is excused from the promotion standards may receive a certificate of achievement or a graduation certificate.**

Promotion Standards for Students who are English Learners

English Learners (EL) students shall meet the same standards as all students. English language proficiency cannot be the factor that determines that a student has not met performance standards for promotion. If the student's English language proficiency is the cause of the student's inability to perform at grade level on required tests, and if documentation indicates that the student is making adequate progress in all academic areas, the student shall be promoted to the next level. However, EL students shall meet the same standards as all students for high school graduation.

Parental Notice and Involvement

Parents shall be notified within ten (10) days of a principal's decision to retain a student. . Parental requests for promotion or review must be made no later than ten (10) days after the parent receives a notice concerning a student's retention.

Reporting Requirements

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction all required data relative to Student Accountability Standards. Additionally, the Superintendent or designee shall report these results to the Board of Education and public annually.

LEGAL REFS: NCGS 115C-288, NCGS 115C-36, NCGS 115C-81, NCGS 115C-105.2, State Board of Education Policy CCRE-001
CROSS REF: Policy 7230 Testing & Accountability

Adopted: 02/04/86

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New Hanover County Public Schools, Wilmington, NC