

POLICY ————— PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUPILS

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5410 – PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that each child develops and grows in a unique pattern and that pupils should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their social, physical, and educational needs. Each pupil enrolled in this district shall be moved forward in a continuous program of learning in harmony with his/her own development.

Standards for pupil promotion shall be related to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and district goals and objectives and to the accomplishments of pupils. A pupil in the elementary grades will be promoted to the next succeeding grade level when he/she has completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade; has achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade; has demonstrated the proficiencies required for movement into the educational program of the next grade; and has demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Middle school students will be promoted to the next grade level upon successfully meeting the academic requirements in mathematics, English, social studies, and science. A failure in any one or more of these subjects will cause the student to be retained in grade. Chronic absenteeism may also be a factor in the consideration of promotion or retention in accordance with Policy 5200 Attendance. High School students move from grade to grade based on the attainment of credits toward graduation as indicated in Policy 5460 High School Graduation.

Students will have the opportunity to make up for course failures by [1] taking and passing an approved and accredited summer school course in the content area, [2] taking a “credit recovery” course through a provider approved by the Board of Education, or [3] participating in a private tutoring program approved and monitored by the school administration. Any expense for these alternate means of satisfying promotion requirements will be borne by the student’s parents or legal guardian(s). These alternate programs must be completed prior to the start of school in September. Students successfully completing summer school, credit recovery, or tutoring programs will be allowed to advance to the next grade level in the next school year. In Grade 8, students failing Algebra I will not be retained, but they will have to repeat Algebra I at the high school. Because of the structure of the middle school schedule, middle school students will not be allowed to double up on courses to make up for failing a required course in the previous year.

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Eighth Grade and Twelfth Grade students not meeting promotion requirements will not be allowed to participate in graduation/commencement exercises. They will be granted their school diplomas upon successful completion of summer school, credit recovery, or tutoring programs.

Promotion policies and procedures will be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as appropriate. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and pupils shall be regularly informed during the school year of the pupil's progress toward meeting promotion standards. A teacher who determines that a pupil's progress may not be sufficient to meet promotion standards shall notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the pupil and offer immediate consultation to the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Every effort shall be made to remediate a pupil's deficiencies before retention is recommended. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and, where appropriate, the pupil shall be notified of the possibility of the pupil's retention at grade level in advance and, whenever feasible, no later than 10 weeks prior to the end of the school year.

School attendance shall be a factor in the determination of a pupil's promotion or retention. Only extenuating circumstances should permit the promotion of a pupil who has been in attendance fewer than 164 days during the school year. (See Policy 5200 Attendance)

Classroom teachers and Child Study Team members for students with disabilities shall recommend to the Building Principal the promotion or retention of each pupil. Any student who has more than 16 absences shall be subject to review by the attendance committee. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and adult pupils may appeal a promotion or retention decision to the attendance committee. The Superintendent shall make the final decision.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 5200

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9

N.J.A.C. 6:8-7.1

Adopted: 13 December 1999

Revised and Adopted: 16 November 2009

Revised and Adopted: 30 March 2015