

PROMOTION, RETENTION AND ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS

Code **IKE** Revised **10/17**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the promotion, retention and acceleration of students.

The district affirms academic excellence for students. This promotion/retention policy describes the standards our students must meet in order to maintain academic excellence and to be considered for promotion from one grade to the next.

This policy will be applicable to all students who are in the regular school program. Students functioning in special education programs will be governed by their Individual Educational Plan (IEP). The district will administer this policy fairly, equitably and consistently in the schools.

Promotion

Promotion decisions for all students in grades K through 8 will be determined by the students' ability to perform at the current grade level based on assessment results, schoolwork or teacher judgment.

At the beginning of the school year, the school will notify each parent of a student performing below grade level of the need for a conference.

At the conference, the student, parent and appropriate school personnel will discuss the necessary steps to ensure student success at the next grade level.

Grades Nine through Twelve

Students in grades nine through twelve will be awarded units of credit for courses that have been approved by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). Requirements for promotion to each grade level are as follows:

- promotion from grade 9 to grade 10: a total of 5 units of credit, including English I, a unit of mathematics, and 1 unit of either science or social studies
- promotion from grade 10 to grade 11: a total of 11 units of credit, including English I and II; two units of mathematics; and one unit of either science or social studies
- promotion from grade 11 to grade 12: a total of 17 units of credit, including English I, II, and III; three credits of mathematics; and two credits of science and must project high school graduation.
- high school graduation: a total of 24 total units of credit, including English I, II, III, and IV; four units of mathematics; three units of science, including one in which an end-of-course test is administered; one unit of U.S. History; ½ unit of Economics; ½ unit of Government; one additional unit of social studies; one unit of physical education; one unit of computer science; and one unit of foreign language or career and technology education

Academic Assistance

When a student is not progressing in core subjects, he/she will be provided appropriate interventions to help the student perform on grade level in identified subjects.

Students who are not substantially demonstrating proficiency in reading will be provided intensive in-class and supplemental reading interventions in accordance with state law and the district reading plan. A literacy assessment portfolio will be developed for each student who is not demonstrating grade-level reading proficiency to provide evidence of a student's progress in the area of literacy and to indicate the intensive instruction and interventions the student has been provided.

Retention

Any decision to retain a student in the same grade level will be made following considerable deliberation and consultation. A student will be retained only when the student has not demonstrated appropriate grade level competencies. The action of retention will be in the best academic interest of the student and will be based on the professional judgment of the school-based instructional personnel, with the ultimate decision made by the principal.

Read to Succeed State-Mandated Retention

A student will be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of the year as indicated by a score at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment. Parents/Legal guardians of each student not demonstrating third-grade reading proficiency will be notified in writing during the second grading period that the student is being considered for retention, and a conference will be held prior to a determination regarding retention.

Adopted 6/6/83; Revised 11/3/97; 1/5/09, 3/4/13, 10/2/17