

# POLICY

## PATERSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Promotion from Preschool/Kindergarten

### 5412 PROMOTION FROM PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The Board of Education will recognize with fitting ceremonies a student's completion of the program of studies offered by this district in preschool and kindergarten.

Promotion or "moving up" ceremonies for preschool and kindergarten students should be active, designed around children's interests, and take place for a length of time that is appropriate for the children. Ceremonies that require a lot of time for practice and memorization, or that focus on adult-centered activities, are not appropriate for preschool and practice sessions may create a high level of stress for both children and teachers.

An appropriate end of the year celebration should be participatory and meaningful for all the children. Familiar music and movement activities, reciting poems and finger plays, or acting out a familiar story are all appropriate choices to incorporate into the designated day. The celebration will be most comfortable for the children if it takes place in a familiar location such as the classroom or familiar outside area.

#### A. Promotion Requirements.

Successful completion of the program of studies in preschool and kindergarten requires achievement of the instructional objectives set for each course of study, demonstration of mastery of the proficiencies established for each course, and a satisfactory attendance record.

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a pupil who may be prevented from moving up to the next grade level shall be so notified in advance and no later than six weeks prior to the close of the school year. Every effort shall be made to remediate a pupil's deficiencies before promotion is denied.

The requirements for promotion from preschool and kindergarten of a disabled pupil shall be set forth in the pupil's individualized education program. Completion of



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those specialized requirements shall qualify the pupil for promotion and entry to secondary school.

### B. Promotion Celebrations, Ceremonies, and Activities.

The primary purpose of district-sponsored promotion celebrations, ceremonies, and activities will be to provide the opportunity for students, their families and staff to recognize students for completing preschool or kindergarten. In keeping with these purposes, promotion ceremonies shall be less formal than high school graduation ceremonies and promotion activities shall be age-appropriate.

- (1) Ceremonies and celebrations will be held at the preschool or elementary school. School administrators will involve parents, staff and students in planning such events and will ensure that all activities are age-appropriate.
- (2) The dress code for promotion ceremonies shall be age-appropriate, as determined by school administrators. All student clothing must meet the requirements of the districtwide Dress Code, Policy 5511.
- (3) Although graduation caps and gowns will not be permitted for preschool and kindergarten promotion ceremonies, students may be required to wear graduation stoles, sashes, or other vestments deemed appropriate by school administrators.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9; 18A:36-14; 18A:36-15;  
18A:36-18; 18A:38-25 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6:3-4A.1; 6A:8-4.4 et seq.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 5200

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