

5.26 - Student Promotion and Retention

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STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION

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No student in grades K-8 will be recommended for retention unless their case has been presented to the Problem Solving Team (PST). Any teacher recommending retention must document using intervention strategies and their results. In cases (K-8) where a retention is contested, the Alexander City School System Instructional Review Committee (IRC) will determine grade placement for the student.

Kindergarten

Students are expected to master academic readiness, social skills, and physical skill designated by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Alexander City Schools standards. Students will be promoted unless there are indications of immaturity that would prohibit them from coping with the academic expectations of the first grade program.

Grades 1-6

The process of making decisions as to promotion and retention of elementary students should take into consideration a variety of factors including age, maturity, motor coordination, capacity for learning, and academic progress. The final authority for promotion/retention decisions for students in grades K – 6 rests with the principal and teacher(s).

If a student needs to be retained based on the teacher's professional judgment of the student's academic performance and/or other factors, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of that student would be informed as early in the school year as possible. In all cases, the decision of whether a student should be promoted or retained shall be made on the basis of which grade placement provides the student a better chance of progressing in his/her educational development.

Passing reading, math, and language arts in the respective grade levels (1-6) is recommended for promotion to the next grade. If offered, successful completion of an approved summer school

program after retention in a grade level may make the student eligible for promotion in the subsequent school year.

Grade 7-8

Students enrolled in grades seven (7) and eight (8) must obtain a numerical grade of at least 60 in each subject - English, math, science and social studies - to be promoted to the next grade. The final authority for promotion/retention decisions for students in grades 7 – 8 rests with the principal.

Grades 9-12

For students to be permitted to move to the next higher grade level, the following standards must be met:

9th to 10th Grade – students who have earned six (6) Carnegie units will be classified as tenth graders.

10th to 11th Grade - students who have earned thirteen (13) Carnegie units will be classified as eleventh graders.

11th to 12th Grade – students who have earned twenty (20) Carnegie units, ten (10) of which must be core classes with at least two (2) units in each of the four core areas of English, math, science, and social studies, will be classified as twelfth graders. Any exception must be approved by the principal.

The final authority for promotion/retention decisions for students in grades 9 – 12 rests with the principal.

Special Education Students

Promotion of any student in a special education program, with the exception of gifted students, must be based on his/her accomplishments of goals stated in the IEP in conjunction with all other regular program requirements. However, a special education student (except gifted) may not be placed at any grade level unless the student has attended school for a commensurate number of years equal to the proposed grade placement; i.e., for a special education student to be placed at the sixth (6th) grade level, he/she must have been enrolled in school for at least five (5) years.

REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA

16-11-9

HISTORY:

ADOPTED: JULY 13, 2010

REVISED APRIL 10, 2012, MARCH 24, 2015

FORMERLY: NEW