

Policy

PROMOTION/RETENTION

The Passaic Board of Education recognizes that personal, social, emotional, physical and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth. The standards for student promotion and retention are critical to the success of Passaic students.

The promotion and retention policy will be distributed to parents and students at the beginning of each school year. Standards for student promotion shall be based upon district goals, objectives, New Jersey Curriculum Standards and the accomplishments of students.

Pre-kindergarten students are not eligible for retention. A student in the elementary grades will be promoted to the next succeeding grade level when he or she has made satisfactory progress at the presently assigned grade and has demonstrated proficiency in the state standards required for movement to the next grade. Such progress will be demonstrated through a variety of measurements, including, but not limited to: classwork, summative and formative assessments, state assessments, and student social/emotional development, in accordance with the Grading and Reporting board policy.

A student in the high school will accrue course credits, and be promoted in accordance with the Graduation Requirements board policy.

Parents and students shall be regularly informed regarding progress toward meeting promotion standards. A teacher who determines that a student's progress may not be sufficient to meet promotion standards shall initiate the referral process to the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) committee and notify, in writing, the parents and the school principal. Such reports for students in in bilingual, ESL, or English language services programs shall be made to parents/guardians on the same schedule as the reports of all pupils enrolled in the district. Progress reports shall be in writing and in both English and their primary speaking language unless doing so places unreasonable burden on the board.

Each school shall convene a retention review committee to assess recommendations for retention, prior to any action on the school's part.

Research conducted in partnership with the Strategic Data Project through the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University found that Passaic Public Schools' students retained prior to high school were 27% less likely to graduate high school within 4 years. Consequently, appropriate interventions must be documented before retention is recommended. The school-based retention review committee shall ensure that students in jeopardy of retention have received appropriate district-recommended interventions. All state laws and regulations must be followed before recommending a student with an IEP for retention.

PROMOTION/RETENTION (continued)

Students identified as at risk for retention who do not demonstrate grade level proficiency may be required to attend the district summer educational program. Students identified for retention, who have attended the program, may be reconsidered for retention at the conclusion of the summer program.

Students in grades 9 through 12 who fail more than one course will be required to attend summer school and/or credit recovery as a part of a program to acquire those credits.

School attendance shall be a significant factor in the determination of a student's promotion or retention, in accordance with the Attendance, Absences, and Excuses board policy.

Classroom teachers shall recommend to the building principal the promotion or retention of each student. Principals and the retention review committee will review recommended retentions to confirm compliance with retention policy guidelines. The principal will notify, in writing, the parent/guardian of a recommendation to retain a student. Parents/guardians and adult students may appeal a retention decision to the Superintendent whose decision shall be final. All appeals must be made no later than ten (10) days after the start of the school year.

If a parent requests a student to be retained, the same process for review, as described above, will be implemented at the school level with the decision to be made by the school principal. Parents must notify the school principal, in writing, no later than forty-five (45) days before the last day of the school year. Parents and adult students may appeal a retention decision to the Superintendent whose decision shall be final.

First Reading: July 25, 2016
 Second Reading: August 29, 2016
 Adopted: August 29, 2016

First Reading: July 29, 2019
 Second Reading: August 28, 2019
 Readopted: August 28, 2019

Key Words

Promotion, Retention, Bilingual

<u>Legal References:</u> <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:4-24	Determining efficiency of schools; report to state board
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:7C-2	Boards of education; establishment of standards
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-4.9	Student promotion and remediation; policies and procedures
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-4.1	Statewide assessment system
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-4.2	Documentation of student achievement
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-5.1	Graduation requirements

PROMOTION/RETENTION (continued)

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

Wheatley v. Board of Education of City of Burlington, 1974 S.L.D. 851

Every Student Succeeds Act, Pub. L. 114-95, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Possible

- Cross References:**
- *5113 Attendance, absences and excuses
 - *5120 Assessment of individual needs
 - *5124 Reporting to parents/guardians
 - *6142 Subject fields
 - *6142.2 English as a second language; bilingual/bicultural
 - *6143 Curriculum guides
 - *6145 Extracurricular activities
 - *6146 Graduation requirements
 - 6146.1 Acceleration
 - *6147 Standards of proficiency
 - *6147.1 Evaluation of individual student performance
 - *6171.1 Remedial instruction
 - *6171.3 At-risk and Title 1

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.