

Policy Code: 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability

The Wake County Board of Education believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level. A multi-tiered system of support provides the structure within which all efforts of WCPSS are aligned to ensure that the academic, behavioral, and social/emotional needs of all students are a high priority in order to be promoted to the next level of study as described in this policy.

A. Student Promotion Standards

The superintendent shall develop (1) proposed promotion standards and (2) a process to be used in determining a student's readiness to progress to the next level of study and shall submit the standards and process to the Board for information as updates and revisions occur approval. The standards will be based, in part, upon proficiency in reading. The standards and process must provide multiple criteria for assessing a student's readiness to progress to the next level of study, such as standardized test scores, formative and diagnostic assessments, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student's work, and, when appropriate, accepted standards for assessing developmental growth, including but not limited to students with disabilities and English Learners. All students will be held to the same promotion standards, with appropriate support and modifications provided as required by law.

Principals shall ensure that the promotion standards are used by teachers and school administrators in assessing each student's readiness to progress to the next level of study. Principals have the authority to promote or retain students based upon the standards developed by the superintendent approved by the board and any applicable laws or standards set by the State Board of Education.

B. System of Support

The superintendent shall organize available resources to implement a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) that uses data-driven problem-solving and research-based instructional practices for all students. The superintendent shall establish processes and standards for addressing concerns about student performance and for documenting student responses to research-based instruction and interventions within the MTSS. Using information about the student's response to instruction and/or interventions and other student performance data, school personnel must identify students at risk of academic failure as early as reasonably may be done, beginning in kindergarten. School administrators and teachers shall address the needs of students identified as at risk of academic failure through the supports available in the MTSS and/or other processes established by the superintendent. The parents or guardians of such students should be included, through oral or written communication or other means, in the implementation and review of academic and/or behavioral interventions for their children.

C. Promotion Decisions

Principals have the authority to promote or retain students in accordance with state and local promotion standards. In determining appropriate grade levels for students already attending a public school, principals shall consider pupils' classroom work and grades, scores on standardized tests, and students' best educational interests. Principals shall not make promotion decisions based solely on the standardized test scores. If a retention decision is partially based on standardized test scores, those scores must be verified as accurate. For students in grades K through 8, principals shall make promotion and retention decisions in consultation with a school review team. A principal's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed in accordance with policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure.

D. Literacy Interventions

1. Reading Camps

The Board will provide reading camp opportunities as required by law at no fee for students who are entitled to this intervention under state law. The superintendent or designee shall encourage parents of eligible students to enroll their students in a reading camp. To the extent resources permit, the Board will offer fee-based reading camp opportunities for students in eligible grades who are not entitled to attend at no cost. Annually, the Board will establish criteria for priority enrollment in its fee-based reading camps and will set the attendance fee at an amount not to exceed the statutory limit. The superintendent or designee shall notify interested parents of the application procedure for the fee-based reading camps.

2. Individual Reading Plans

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) will be developed in accordance with state law for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading development based on the results of either (1) the first diagnostic or formative assessment of the school year or (2) the first diagnostic or formative assessment of the second semester of the school year. The student's teacher shall notify the parent or guardian that the student has demonstrated difficulty with reading development and that an IRP has been developed for the student. The notice provided must include all other information required under [G.S. 115C-83.6B\(b\)](#) and should be in the parents' native language when appropriate foreign language resources are readily available.

3. Digital Children's Reading Initiative

The school system will provide access through the school system website to available resources from the Department of Public Instruction's Digital Children's Reading Initiative as required by law. Printable activities from those resources will be provided in hard copy to students who do not have digital access at home.

4. Approval of Literacy Intervention Plan

By the established deadline each year, the superintendent or designee shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction for approval a plan for the literacy interventions the school system will offer in the following school year, as required by [G.S. 115C-83.6A](#).

E. Credit Recovery

Students who fail a high school course may retake parts of the course through credit recovery to earn credit for the course. Credit recovery delivers a subset of the blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student's mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion. A pre-assessment of the student's understanding of the course material will be administered at the beginning of the course and the credit recovery will be tailored to meet the needs of the individual student. The length of a credit recovery course is dictated by the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover and not a fixed length of seat time.

Any EOC exam associated with the credit recovery course will be administered no later than 30 days upon completion of the credit recovery course. The credit recovery will be graded as pass or fail and will not impact the student's grade point average. The original grade for the course will remain on the student's transcript.

The superintendent shall develop procedures addressing the implementation of credit recovery opportunities across the school system.

F. Repeating a Course for Credit

1. Repeating a Previously Failed Course

As provided in State Board of Education policy [CCRE-001](#), high school students who fail a course for credit may repeat that course. To take advantage of this option, the student must repeat the entire course. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, students who fail a course and repeat the full course (not credit recovery) and earn a passing grade, the passing grade will replace the failing grade in GPA calculation. Both grades will be recorded on the transcript.

2. Repeating a Course for which Credit was Earned (Grade Replacement)

The Board recognizes that high school students may need to repeat a course for which they have earned credit in order to increase their understanding of the course content, to improve skill mastery, or to meet postsecondary goals. Students may repeat a course for which they have previously earned credit, subject to the following preconditions and any other reasonable rules established by the superintendent:

- a. there must be space available after seats have been assigned to students who are taking the course for the first time or repeating a previously failed course;
- b. the course to be repeated must be a duplicate of the original class;
- c. upon completion of the repeated course, both the original and the new course grades will be recorded on the transcript and both will count towards GPA calculations;
- d. credit towards graduation for the same course will be given only once.

G. Reporting Requirements

1. Superintendent's Report to the Board

At least on an annual basis, the superintendent shall provide the Board with the following information for each school:

- a. aggregate student performance scores on state-mandated tests and any other standardized tests used by a school or the school system;
- b. the number and percentage of students retained and/or not meeting the standards for their grade level;
- c. the number and percentage of third grade students exempt from mandatory third grade retention by category of exemption as listed in state law; and
- d. remedial or additional educational opportunities provided by the school system and the success of these efforts in helping students meet promotion standards.

2. Report to the North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction

Pursuant to statutory requirements and standards established by the Department of Public Instruction, all required information regarding student

performance will be provided annually to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

3. Publication on the School System Website

Information about the reading performance of first, second, and third grade students will be posted on the school system website in accordance with state law.

H. Resources

All funds will be used in a fiscally sound manner in accordance with Fiscal Management Standards.

I. Notification to Parents

The superintendent or designee shall provide information regarding promotion standards to all students and parents. In addition, promotion standards shall be posted on the school system website and made available to students and parents in the main office of each school.

If a kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade student (1) is demonstrating difficulty with reading development, or (2) is not reading at grade level, the student's teacher shall provide the student's parents timely written notice advising that if the student is not demonstrating reading proficiency by the end of third grade, the student will be retained, unless exempt from mandatory retention for a good cause. The Board will provide reading camp opportunities as required by law at no fee for students who have not yet demonstrated reading proficiency on a third-grade level at the end of third grade and for first and second grade students whose demonstrated reading comprehension is below grade level. Parents are encouraged to help their children meet the promotion standards and will have opportunities to discuss the promotion standards and procedures with teachers and the principal. Information provided to parents should be in the parents' native language when appropriate foreign language resources are readily available. Information is provided to limited English proficient parents in a language they can understand.

The teacher of a student who does not meet promotion standards must notify the student's parents that the student has failed to meet the standards for progression to the next level of study and must provide the parents with information concerning retesting, intervention, review, and appeal opportunities. When a student is to be retained, the principal shall provide the student's parents written notice of the retention and, if the student will be retained in accordance with [G.S. 115C-83.7\(a\)](#) for failure to demonstrate reading proficiency, (1) written notice of the reason the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption as provided in [G.S. 115C-83.7\(b\)](#) and (2) a description of proposed literacy interventions that will be

provided to the student to remediate areas where the student has not demonstrated reading proficiency. Teachers shall provide parents of students retained under [G.S. 115C-83.7](#)(a) at least monthly written reports on student progress toward reading proficiency. The evaluation of a student's progress will be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, assessments, and other relevant information.

J. Children of Military Families

As required by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children ([G.S. 115C-407.5](#)) school administrators have the authority to exercise flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for the placement of children of military families in courses or programs offered by the school system.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-36](#), [-45\(c\)](#), [-47](#), [-81.5](#), [-83.2](#), [-83.3](#), [-83.6](#), [-83.6A](#), [-83.6B](#), [-83.7](#), [-83.7A](#), [-83.8](#), [-83.9](#), [-83.10](#), [-83.11](#), [-105.21](#), [-174.11](#), [-288\(a\)](#), [-407.5](#); [S.L. 2021-8](#); State Board of Education Policies [CCRE-001](#), [KNEC-002](#), [KNEC-003](#)

Other Resources: *Guidelines for Testing Students Identified as English Learners* (N.C. Department of Public Instruction), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/testing-and-school-accountability/testing-policy-and-operations/testing-students-identified-english-learners>; Read to Achieve Implementation Guide, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/early-learning-read-achieve/k-3-literacy>

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Wake County Board of Education