



Book	Board Policy Manual
Section	5. Students & Instructional Programs
Title	Promotion and Retention
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### **Student Progress and Success**

Progression of students will be continuous from one level to the next and will be characterized by early diagnosis, quality instruction, intervention, and support services, including activities during and beyond the regular school day and summer school. The following criteria for promotion and retention are established in accordance with Georgia statute (O.C.G.A. Sections 20-2-282, 283, 284, 285), State Board of Education rules, and local expectations.

#### **Elementary and Middle School Criteria**

1. Kindergarten
  - a. The student must perform at the Readiness Level as measured by the state kindergarten assessment.
  - b. The student must be recommended for promotion by the classroom teacher and principal based on satisfactory classroom performance.
2. Grades 1-5
  - a. The student must perform at or above grade level in reading and language arts and mathematics on the student report card, and
  - b. The student must be recommended for promotion by the classroom teacher and principal based on satisfactory classroom performance.
3. Grades 6-8
  - a. The student must receive a grade of 70 or above in reading and language arts and mathematics on the student report card, and
  - b. The student must pass eight subjects each year. Two nine-week Connections classes are equivalent to a one-semester course. Students must have a passing grade in both reading and language arts and mathematics at the end of the school year, and
  - c. The student must be recommended for promotion by the classroom teacher and principal based on satisfactory classroom performance.
4. Based on the availability of state funding, a summer opportunity program in grades four through eight will be held for students who will be retained or who have failed academic subjects. Other elementary and middle school remedial summer programming will be offered as available resources permit. The Executive Director may approve non-APS summer programming on an individualized basis. Students who attend non-APS summer

programming will be required to pass the same test(s) for promotion that are required of students who attend APS summer school.

5. This policy will apply to students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) three consecutive school years after they enroll in the Atlanta Public Schools. In the three-year interim period, promotion, placement and retention decisions will be made based on the recommendation from the academic teacher(s), the ESOL staff, and the principal.

### **Criteria for Grades 9-12**

1. High school students shall be promoted based on the following criteria:
  - 9th grade: Completion of minimum 8th grade requirements (eight (8) courses, including language arts and mathematics).
  - 10th grade: 6 units (4 core, including 1 unit each in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies).
  - 11th grade: 12 units (8 core, including 2 units each in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies).
  - 12th grade: 18 units (12 core, including 3 units each in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies).
2. Students shall be promoted at the end of second semester or summer session of each year. Students in grades 9 and 10 shall not be promoted midyear. Students shall be promoted from 11th to 12th grade at the end of first semester if the student has earned the number of academic units required to achieve 12th grade status.
3. Re-examination in High School—subject to the following limitations, a student in the senior class who fails in one or more subjects in the first semester or the second semester may be permitted to take a second examination in a course(s) that he/she has failed:
  - a. The senior must appear before the school's Leadership Team to make a formal request for the re-examination, presenting a justification for making such a request.
  - b. The Leadership Team, based upon the request and the justification thereof presented by the student, must approve or disapprove the request. Approval by a plurality of the members of the Leadership Team in attendance at the presentation of the request will constitute the basis for the principal to comply with the request for the re-examination.
  - c. No more than one-half (.5) unit of credit may be granted by re-examination in either semester, with an aggregate of no more than one unit of credit being granted by re-examination.
  - d. This re-examination provision is not applicable to any course failed in summer school.
  - e. The subject matter to be covered in a re-examination shall be the work of the semester. The grade on the re-examination shall not be averaged with the other grades that have been made in this subject, but shall be considered alone. If the grade is 70 or above, the student shall earn credit in the subject that he/she has failed.
  - f. The provisions listed above do not apply to students who have 10 or more unexcused absences. Excused absences must be documented at the time of the absence.
4. Work in Residence by Seniors — senior work must be done in the school from which the student expects to receive a diploma, except in the case of a student who enters the class from an accredited school outside of the district after the beginning of the school year. In such a case, the student shall demonstrate that he/she is as far advanced as the senior class that he/she desires to enter. A semester and a half of the senior class work must be done in residence at the respective high school in order for the student to be eligible for a diploma from that school. Exceptions are to be made only by the Superintendent.

### **Promotion**

The regular promotion of students shall occur at the end of the academic year. See policy IHF (6) Graduation Requirements - Entering Fall 2008-09 and thereafter for high school promotion requirements.

### **Student Progress Reports**

Reports of student progress shall be made from time to time and in such a manner as the Superintendent may prescribe.

The superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

### Definitions

(a) English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) – the instructional program that assists students in learning English that follows the requirements outlined in State Board of Education Rule 160-4-5-.02.

(b) Grade level – standard of performance, as defined by the Georgia Office of Education Accountability, on a Criterion-Referenced Competency Test. Level 1 = does not meet performance standards; Level 2 = meets state performance standards; Level 3 = exceeds state performance standards.

(c) Limited English Proficient (LEP) – a federal definition included in the Improving America’s School Act of 1994, Title VII, Section 7501, stating that a student’s primary language is one other than English and the student has sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language that these difficulties may deny the individual the opportunity to learn successfully in the classroom.

(d) Placement – the assignment of a student to a specific grade level based on the determination that such placement will most likely provide the student with instruction and other services needed to succeed and progress to the next higher level of academic achievement.

(e) Promotion – the assignment of a student to a higher grade level based on the student’s achievement of established criteria in the current grade.

(f) Retention – the re-assignment of a student to the current grade level during the next school year.

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### See also:

[Board Policy IHA Grading Systems](#)

### Legal citations:

[O.C.G.A. 20-02-0282 Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy](#)

[O.C.G.A. 20-02-0283 Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy-Criteria; specific requirements for students in grades three, five and eight; implementation](#)

[O.C.G.A. 20-02-0284 Criteria for local boards of education; model placement and promotion policy](#)

[O.C.G.A. 20-17-0002 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#)

[O.C.G.A. 20-02-0281 Assessment of effectiveness of educational programs](#)

[O.C.G.A. 20-02-0285 Placement and Promotion policy - implementation timetable](#)

[Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs- Student Assessment](#)

[Rule 160-4-2-.11 Promotion, Placement, and Retention](#)

[Rule 160-5-1-.18 Competitive Interscholastic Activities in Grades 6-12](#)

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