

## **Students**

### **Promotion/Acceleration/Retention**

The Board of Education is dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled in its schools. Therefore, the District will establish and maintain the highest standards required for each grade and monitor student performance in a continuous and systematic manner. The administration and faculty shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents and guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on demonstrated and assessed successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on the CMT and CAPT statewide assessments and other testing instruments. Any necessary retention should take place as early in a student's educational career as possible.

Students shall be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement. Students who, on the basis of objective measures of academic proficiency, can reasonably be expected to meet the instructional/learning objectives at the next educational level may be promoted.

The Board of Education shall approve the grading and reporting systems as developed by the administration and faculty upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Board desires to minimize/eliminate the practice of promoting students to the next grade level for social reasons even though they are failing academically. The Board expects students to progress through each grade usually within one school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual students and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed. Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards of expected student achievement. The student's readiness for work at the next grade level shall be required before he/she is promoted. Students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted; those who have not will be retained.

Progress toward high school graduation shall be based on the student's ability to pass the required subjects and electives necessary to earn the required number of credits necessary for graduation, meeting the credit distribution requirement. The student must also satisfactorily demonstrate the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). Students who have not successfully completed the assessment criteria shall participate in a course of study designed to assist them attain a satisfactory level of competency prior to graduation. When high academic achievement is evident, the Superintendent or his/her designee may approve a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

## Students

### Promotion/Acceleration/Retention (continued)

Schools shall identify students in danger of failing and being at risk for retention. This identification shall also include those students who fail to meet the remedial standards of the CMT and CAPT statewide assessment programs. Prior to deciding on retention for a student not mastering the appropriate skills, the district shall provide and may require the student to attend one or more alternatives for remedial assistance. Opportunities, provided for supplemental and remedial instruction to assist the student in overcoming his/her academic deficiencies, may include but are not limited to, after-school tutorial programs, Saturday tutorial programs, summer school, Reading Recovery, instruction during school vacations or during week-end programs, cross-age tutoring or student mentoring.

As a priority school district students in the fourth grade who do not meet the CMT remedial standards on the reading portion on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade test are required to attend summer school the summer following the examination and students who do not meet any portion of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade test must attend summer school, within available appropriations, in the following summer. Students may be exempted from these requirements by the Superintendent upon the recommendation of the principal indicating that the student has made sufficient progress with the additional instruction provided. A student not receiving an exemption and who fails to go to summer school cannot be promoted to the next grade.

As a priority school district, a student in grades one through three determined to be substantially deficient in reading based on measures established by the State Board of Education shall have a personal reading plan for such student which shall include measures to improve the student's reading level such as tutoring, a transitional class or a summer reading program. Promotion of such student shall be based on documented progress in achieving the goals of the personal reading plan or demonstrated reading proficiency. The promotion of a student who is substantially deficient in reading from third to fourth grade must be justified in writing to the Superintendent by the school Principal. A personal reading plan shall be maintained for such a student until the student achieves a satisfactory level of proficiency.

In all cases of promotion or retention, the parent/guardian is to be fully involved and informed throughout the promotion/retention decision-making process. Parents will be notified as early as possible that retention is being considered and except in very unusual circumstances, no later than March 15. The Principal shall be responsible for making the final decision as to retention and assignment.

## Students

### Promotion/Acceleration/Retention (continued)

The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents and guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on the statewide CMT and CAPT testing program and on other standardized tests, meeting the statewide reading standards in the primary grades, maturity, academic potential and student aptitude. A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance. The district shall provide alternatives to promotion such as, but not limited to transitional programs and may require students whose academic performance jeopardizes their promotion or graduation to attend after-school, summer school or other programs the district offers that are designed to help them. The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted.

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.1 - Grading System)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 99-288 An Act Concerning Education Accountability

10-221(b) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-265g Summer reading programs required for priority school districts. Evaluation of student reading level. Personal reading plans. (as amended by PA 01-173)

10-265l Requirements for additional instruction for poor performing students in priority school districts; exemption. Summer school required; exemption (as amended by PA 99-288, PA 01-173, and PA 03-174)

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ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Ansonia, Connecticut