

Grade Advancement Policy

The philosophy of the West Salem School District is for all students to achieve optimal learning based on high expectations and considerations of their abilities and needs. This applies to grade advancement of 4th to 5th and 8th to 9th grades and Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) results. The Board recognizes that students have diverse capabilities and interests and individual patterns of growth and learning. Therefore, the Board believes it is important that teachers have as much accurate knowledge of each student as is possible through daily observations and student records.

Because the promotion of students from the fourth grade to the fifth grade and from the eighth to the ninth grade is affected by State Statutes (ss.118.33) (6) (a), this grade advancement policy applies to such promotions. Other district policies relating to the promotion of students apply if they are not inconsistent with this policy. Beginning on September 1, 2002, no student may be promoted from the fourth grade to the fifth grade or from the eighth grade to the ninth grade unless the student satisfies the criteria for promotion in this policy.

Grade advancement decisions will be based on the three criteria listed below. For those students opted-out of the WKCE, judgment is based on the other specified criteria.

A-1. Student Score on Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE)

Receives a score of basic or above on 3 or more of the 5 subtests that comprise the WKCE.

AND

A-2. By achieving a grade point average of 2.0 or above (on a 12 point scale) in graded subjects; or

By successfully completing the Goals and Objectives on the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

OR

B. Teacher Recommendations

The recommendation will be determined through consensus of the Grade Advancement Committee. The Grade Advancement Committee from the elementary and middle school shall consist of the following membership: building principal or assistant building principal, school counselor, classroom teachers of the student in question, Director of Pupil Services or designee. In addition, the building principal may include others in the formal teacher recommendation, if deemed appropriate. The Grade Advancement Committee, in its formal process, may evaluate the following:

1. The student's school development history.
2. Student achievement level and curricular expectations.
3. Alternative instructional strategies available and currently being implemented (remedial services, peer tutoring, etc.).
4. The extent of alternative programming available in both the new and repeated grade.
5. Age of the student.
6. The results of special education testing.

Parent (s) or guardian (s) will be invited to attend the meeting of the Grade Advancement Committee. However, the final decision rests with the West Salem Board of Education. The student may participate as deemed appropriate by parent (s) or guardian (s).

OR

B. Other Academic Criteria Specified by the School Board

Successful completion of an individual remediation plan designed by the Grade Advancement Committee.

The district administrator shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the promotion of students under this policy. The district administrator or, if assigned the responsibility by the district administrator, the building principal shall determine whether a student has satisfied the criteria in this policy. This policy is designed to encourage early identification and interventions for those students who have academic, behavioral, and/or emotional difficulties.

Written confirmation will be sent to the parent (s) or guardian (s) regarding the final decision by June 15 of the just completed school year. Decisions will apply for the following year.

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