

STUDENT RETENTION (REGULATION)

In accordance with the policy of the board of education, the following criteria for the selection of students to be retained in their current grade, or denied course credit, will be used in this school district.

Students shall be promoted or receive credit for a course of study if a grade average of 60% has been achieved for an entire course of study as determined by the teacher.

Students in grades one through eight must achieve a grade average of 60% or higher in at least three major courses of study to be promoted to the next higher grade. The major courses of study are math, language arts, science, reading, and social studies.

1. Any student who demonstrates proficiency in reading at the third-grade level through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria shall not be subject to retention. Upon demonstrating proficiency through screening, the district shall provide notification to the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student that they have satisfied the requirements of the Reading Sufficiency Act and will not be subject to retention pursuant to this section.

2. If a third-grade student is identified at any point of the academic year as having a significant reading deficiency, which shall be defined as scoring below proficient on a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria, the district shall immediately begin a student reading portfolio and shall provide notice to the parent of the deficiency.

3. a. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade, the student may qualify for automatic promotion to the fourth grade upon scoring at the "limited knowledge" level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade criterion-referenced test.
- b. Prior to promotion, however, the district shall provide notice to the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s) that the child is not yet reading at grade level and provide the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the child the option for retention should they so desire. The notice shall contain, at a minimum, the most recently identifiable grade level on which the student is actually proficient, the opportunities for summer reading programs, school and/or community based reading tutoring, vendors which provide reading tutoring and the rights to the continuing intensive remediation pursuant to this paragraph.

c. A student so promoted shall be entitled to intensive remediation in reading until the student is able to demonstrate proficiency in reading at the grade level in which the student is enrolled. An intensive remediation plan shall be developed by a "Student Reading Proficiency Team" composed of:

- (1) the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student,
- (2) the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
- (3) a teacher in reading who teaches in the subsequent grade level,
- (4) the school principal, and
- (5) a certified reading specialist, if one is available.

4. If a student has not yet satisfied the proficiency requirements of this section prior to the completion of third grade and still has a significant reading deficiency, as identified based on assessments administered that meet the acquisition of reading skills criteria, has not accumulated evidence of third-grade proficiency through a student portfolio, or is not subject to a good cause exemption, then the student shall not be eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade.

5. a. For the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, a student not qualified for automatic promotion under paragraph 4 of this subsection may be evaluated for "probationary promotion" by a "Student Reading Proficiency Team" composed of:

- (1) the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student,
- (2) the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
- (3) a teacher in reading who teaches in the subsequent grade level,
- (4) the school principal, and
- (5) a certified reading specialist.

The student shall be promoted to the fourth grade if the team members unanimously recommend "probationary promotion" to the school district superintendent and the superintendent approves the recommendation that promotion is the best option for the

student. If a student is allowed a "probationary promotion", the team shall continue to review the reading performance of the student and repeat the requirements of this paragraph each academic year until the student demonstrates grade-level reading proficiency, as identified through a screening instrument which meets the acquisition of reading skills criteria, for the corresponding grade level in which the student is enrolled or transitions to the requirements set forth by the Achieving Classroom Excellence Act.

6. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, students who score at the unsatisfactory level on the reading portion of the statewide third-grade criterion referenced test and who are not subject to a good cause exemption as provided in subsection K of this section shall be retained in the third grade and provided intensive instructional services and supports.

7. The school district shall annually report to the State Department of Education the number of students promoted to the fourth grade as required by law.

A third grade student may be promoted for "good cause" if the student meets one of the following statutory exemptions:

- (1) Limited-English-proficient students who have had less than two years of instruction in an English language learner program;
- (2) Students with disabilities whose individualized education plans, consistent with state law, indicates that the student is to be assessed with alternative achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP);
- (3) Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Board of Education;
- (4) Students who demonstrate through a student portfolio, that the student is reading on grade level as evidenced by demonstration of mastery of the state standards beyond the retention level;
- (5) Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide criterion-referenced tests and who have an individualized education plan that reflects that the student has received intensive remediation for reading for more than two years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in prekindergarten for academic reasons, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade; and

(6) Students who have received intensive remediation in reading through a program of reading instruction for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in prekindergarten for academic reasons, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade for a total of two years.

Requests to exempt students from the mandatory retention requirements based on one of the good-cause exemptions shall be made using the following process:

1. Documentation submitted from the teacher of the student to the school principal that indicates the student meets one of the good-cause exemptions and promotion of the student is appropriate. Documentation shall be limited to the alternative assessment results or student portfolio work and the individual education plan (IEP), as applicable;
2. The principal of the school shall review and discuss the documentation with the teacher. If the principal determines that the student meets one of the good-cause exemptions and should be promoted based on the documentation provided, the principal shall make a recommendation in writing to the school district superintendent; and
3. After review, the school district superintendent shall accept or reject the recommendation of the principal in writing.

In the elementary and middle schools, a placement committee consisting of the principal, counselor, and teacher(s) shall determine if a student is to be assigned to the next higher grade. The committee shall consider standardized test scores and the student's age.

Whenever a teacher or a placement committee recommends that a student be retained at the present grade level or not passed in a course, the parent(s) or guardian, if dissatisfied with the recommendation, may appeal the decision by complying with the district's appeal process. The decision of the board of education shall be final. The parent(s) or guardian may prepare a written statement to be placed in and become a part of the permanent record of the student stating the parent(s)'s or guardian's reason(s) for disagreeing with the decision of the board.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-114.1
70 O.S. §1210.508C