



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

## Promotion Policy in New York City Public Schools

The Promotion Policy for New York City Department of Education Public Schools is informed by Chancellor's Regulation A-501, which can be found on the DOE's website, <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/policies-for-all>.

### The criteria for promotion from each grade are as follows:

#### Kindergarten and Grades 1 & 2

Students must show progress towards meeting the Common Core English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Standards. Promotion decisions are made by the principal with input from the child's teacher and parents.

#### Grades 3-7

Students must show progress towards meeting the Common Core ELA and Math Standards. Promotion decisions are based on state test scores, course grades, report cards, student writing samples, projects, and assignments. State test scores are not the primary factor in making promotion decisions. Principals make promotion decisions.

#### Grade 8

Students must pass English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies classes. Students will be promoted based on state test scores, course grades, report cards, student writing samples, projects, and assignments. Students must also show progress towards meeting the Common Core ELA and Math Standards. State test scores are not the primary factor in making promotion decisions. Principals make final promotion decisions.

#### High School Grades 9—12

Students are promoted based on the number of credits they earn. In order to be promoted, students must earn at least:

- Grade 9: 8 credits
- Grade 10: 20 credits
- Grade 11: 30 credits
- Grade 12: 44 credits in specified areas

Students also must pass 4+1 Regents exams in order to graduate.

For more information on High School graduation requirements and diploma options, check out AFC's fact sheets at [www.advocatesforchildren.org](http://www.advocatesforchildren.org)

### Exceptions

- English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades 3-7 enrolled in a U.S. school for less than 2 years and ELLs in grade 8 enrolled in a U.S. school for less than 1 year are not held to these promotion standards. Please consult Advocates for Children's [fact sheet on Promotion Policies for ELLs in Grades K—8](#) for more information.
- Students with disabilities may be held to different promotion standards as outlined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Depending on a student's specific needs, the student may have testing accommodations and modified promotion criteria or may be exempt from taking state and city-wide assessments entirely.
- Principals may recommend that students who have been previously retained, or are two or more years overage for their grade, be promoted, even if they do not meet the Common Core standards. Overage students must show progress in multiple areas, such as classroom assessments, assignments, or teacher observations, in order to be promoted.

## Parental Notification and Interventions

Parents should be notified of and involved in decisions about their child's promotion. If a student is at risk of being held over, parents should be told during the school year. Students are entitled to interventions to move towards promotion.

- Parents will be told in the early part of the school year, but no later than the **fall Parent-Teacher conference** if the student's promotion is in doubt. Written notice is to be provided no later than **February 15**.
- **Spring Parent-Teacher conferences** also offer an opportunity to discuss student progress.
- The parent should be told in writing by regular mail in June if their child is not recommended for promotion.
- Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up who do not meet standards in June are encouraged to attend summer school. If their school does not offer summer school, ask about programs available at other schools.
- At the end of summer school in August, the principal will review student work from the school year and summer work to decide if the student will be promoted. Students in grades 8—12 must receive passing grades in core academic summer school classes in order to be promoted.

### NOTE:

Failure to notify the parent does not require that the student be promoted.

## Appeals Process

Parents of students in K—8 may appeal promotion decisions, in writing, to the principal by the end of August. The superintendent will review the principal's decision and make the final determination.

## Parent Tips

- ❑ **Attend parent-teacher conferences.** Find out what your child needs in order to be promoted. Ask what you can try at home to help your child.
- ❑ **Be informed.** Know your rights as a parent/guardian. If your child has an IEP, be familiar with the services and accommodations that they may be entitled to and the promotion criteria that they must meet.
- ❑ **Be involved in the appeal process.** Follow up with your child's teacher(s) and principal to ensure they have all necessary documentation to make an informed decision about your child's promotion.
- ❑ **Extra help may be available.** If your child requires extra help, ask your school about Academic Intervention Services (AIS), a resource that can help your child meet the state standards.

### Still have more questions?

**Please Call the Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline**

Monday through Thursday, 10am to 4pm

1-866-427-6033 (toll free)

**Advocates for Children of New York, Inc.**

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This fact sheet does not constitute legal advice. This fact sheet attempts to summarize existing policies or laws without stating the opinion of AFC. If you have a legal problem, please contact an attorney or advocate.

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