

POLICY 6454.1  
FOURTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION

The District is committed to successfully educating all students to reach their fullest intellectual, academic, social/emotional and physical potential.

Beginning with the 2002 - 2003 school year, students shall meet established District criteria to be promoted from fourth to fifth grade and from eighth to ninth grade. The promotion criteria is designed to afford students several different ways to demonstrate their knowledge of subject matter. The criteria also provides flexibility so students with disabilities may continue to be included with their peers.

LEGAL REF.: Wisconsin Statutes

Sections 118.13	[Student nondiscrimination]
118.145	[Admission to high school]
118.24(2)(a)	[General supervision and management of the promotion of students]
118.30	[Student assessment]
118.33(6)(a)1	[Fourth and eighth grade promotion policy requirement]
120.12(2)	[Board duty; advise regarding instruction and progress of students]
120.13	[Board power to do all things reasonable for cause of education]
Wisconsin Administrative Code	
PI 16	[Testing of LEP students and students with disabilities]

CROSS REF.: 5110, Equal Educational Opportunities/Student Discrimination Complaing  
6100, District Vision  
6110, Instructional Program Mission and Beliefs  
6421, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
6426, Student Program or Curriculum Modifications  
6427, Individual and Remedial Services  
6430, Instructional Arrangements (The Learning Situation)  
6460, Testing Programs  
6461, Parental Consent for Testing  
Special Education Program and Procedure Manual

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS: None

AFFIRMED: July 23, 2002

RULE 6454.1

CRITERIA FOR FOURTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION

Fourth Grade Promotion

1. Beginning in the fall of 2002, to be promoted from fourth grade, a student must have a score of "basic" or above on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) in each of the following areas: reading, language arts, English and mathematics.
2. If the student has not taken the WKCE or the student does not meet the WKCE score requirement, the school shall review that student's academic performance as measured by the report card grades. To be promoted from fourth grade, the student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for the entire school year in each of the following subjects: reading, language arts/English, mathematics, science and social studies.
3. If the student does not meet either the WKCE or report card criteria, the school should determine whether the student has met any of the following intervening criteria. If the student meets any of these criteria, the school may promote the student from fourth grade.
  - a. Has the student previously been retained in a grade? How would a repeated retention impact the student's academic achievement?
  - b. Has the student successfully completed individualized educational program (IEP) or limited English proficient (LEP) plans?
  - c. Does the student have bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) issues that impact achievement?
4. If the student does not meet the criteria relative to the WKCE, report card grades or the other intervening factors, the school shall review the student's academic performance as measured by the district's content standards and benchmarks. To be promoted from fourth grade, the student must have a passing score on 5 of 7 reading/language arts standards and 6 of 8 math standards. A passing score is determined by the classroom teacher who covers the appropriate subject matter, but should be roughly equivalent to a score of "basic" or above on the WKCE.
5. If the student does not meet the criteria noted above, other evidence may be reviewed to help make promotion decisions. If the school feels that the student has adequately met any of these criteria, the student may be promoted from fourth grade.
  - a. Are there previous records indicating academic success?
  - b. Has the student successfully completed an alternative to summer school?
  - c. Has the student completed summer school with a grade of C- or better in reading and math and shown academic growth through regular attendance.
  - d. Does the student have any physical or mental health issues that should be considered as impacting academic achievement?
  - e. Are there any out-of-district records that indicate academic success?
  - f. Are there any other sources of academic information that may benefit the student?
6. If a decision not to promote a student is made over the objections of the parent/guardian, the decision may be appealed to the Executive Director of K-8 Instruction, whose decision shall be final.

Eight Grade Promotion

1. Beginning in the fall of 2002, to be promoted from eighth grade, a student must have a score of "basic" or above on the WKCE in each of the following areas: reading, language arts, English, mathematics, science and social studies.
2. If the student does not take the WKCE or the student does not meet the WKCE score requirement, the

school shall review that student's academic performance as measured by the report card grades. To be promoted from eighth grade, the student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for the entire school year in each of the following subjects: reading, language arts/English, mathematics, science and social studies.

3. If the student does not meet either the WKCE or report card criteria, the school should determine whether the student has met any of the following intervening criteria. If the student meets any of these criteria, the school may promote the student from eighth grade.
  - a. Has the student previously been retained in a grade? How would a repeated retention impact the student's academic achievement?
  - b. Has the student successfully completed IEP or LEP plans?
  - c. Does the student have bilingual or ESL issues that impact achievement?
4. If the student does not meet the criteria relative to the WKCE, report card grades or the other intervening factors, the school shall review the student's academic performance as measured by the district's content standards and benchmarks. To be promoted from eighth grade, the student must have a passing score on 6 of 7 reading/language arts standards and 7 of 8 math standards. A passing score is determined by the classroom teacher who covers the appropriate subject matter, but should be roughly equivalent to a score of "basic" or above on the WKCE.
5. If the student does not meet the criteria noted above, other evidence may be reviewed to help make promotion decisions. If the school feels that the student has adequately met any of these criteria, the student may be promoted from eighth grade.
  - a. Are there previous records indicating academic success?
  - b. Has the student successfully completed an alternative to summer school?
  - c. Has the student completed summer school with a grade of C- or better in English and math and shown academic growth through regular attendance.
  - d. Does the student have any physical or mental health issues that should be considered as impacting academic achievement?
  - e. Are there any out-of-district records that indicate academic success?
  - f. Are there any other sources of academic information that may benefit the student?
6. If a decision not to promote a student is made over the objections of the parent/guardian, the decision may be appealed to the Executive Director of K-8 Instruction, whose decision shall be final.

Each elementary school and middle school shall review the promotion criteria and procedures annually at the start of the school year with teachers, students and parents. During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, elementary classroom teachers shall make the initial promotion decision based on WKCE scores and report card grades. If further decisions are required, a building team should be utilized. An elementary team comprised of the building principal, a counselor, and representative fourth grade teachers shall constitute the review board for promotion decisions from fourth grade. At the eighth grade level, a building review team should be utilized to make promotion decisions. A middle school team comprised of a building administrator, a counselor and representative eighth grade teachers shall constitute the review board for promotion decisions from eighth grade. Parents/guardians should be notified about the potential for non-promotion and summer school attendance no later than the end of the third academic quarter and preferably sooner. Final promotion decisions will be made following the recording of report card grades at the end of the second semester.

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advancement Criteria

