

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

EIE  
(LEGAL)

PROMOTION

A student may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level. *Education Code 28.021(a)* [See EI]

In addition to local policy relating to grade advancement, students in grades 3, 5, and 8 must demonstrate proficiency by meeting the passing standard on the appropriate assessment instrument listed at GRADE ADVANCEMENT TESTING or on a state-approved alternate assessment.

A student who does not demonstrate proficiency may advance to the next grade only if the student's grade placement committee (GPC) determines by unanimous decision, in accordance with the standards for promotion established by the Board, that the student is likely to perform at grade level at the end of the next year given additional accelerated instruction.

*19 TAC 101.2001(b)*

A student does not have a property interest in promotion. *Education Code 28.0211(e)*

RETENTION

The District is not precluded from retaining, in accordance with state law or Board policy, a student who performs satisfactorily on a grade advancement test. *Education Code 28.0211(g)*

Students who have been retained in grade 8 in accordance with the grade advancement testing requirements may earn course credit for high school graduation during the next school year in subject areas other than the required courses in the subject area which caused the student to be retained. *19 TAC 101.2019(a)*

GRADE  
ADVANCEMENT  
TESTING

The District shall test eligible students in accordance with the grade advancement requirements set forth below.

ELIGIBLE  
STUDENTS

An eligible student is subject to all grade advancement requirements, including the automatic retention component, if the following two criteria are met:

1. The student is enrolled in a District or charter school on any day between January 1 and April 15 of the school year during which the grade advancement test is administered; and
2. The student is eligible for enrollment in a Texas public school (as defined by legal residence in the state) during the week of the first general grade advancement test administration as established in the assessment calendar by the Commissioner.

An eligible student who does not meet the criteria specified above but enrolls in the District at any time after the week of the first general grade advancement test administration is subject to all grade

advancement requirements except for automatic retention and shall not be automatically retained if the student does not demonstrate proficiency on any of the grade advancement tests.

The District must provide the student with the other required services in the overall system of support for student academic achievement, including the opportunity to test, access to accelerated instruction, and the formation of a GPC.

*19 TAC 101.2003(b), (c)*

REQUIRED  
ASSESSMENT

A student may not be promoted to:

1. The fourth grade program to which the student would otherwise be assigned if the student does not perform satisfactorily on the third grade reading assessment instrument;
2. The sixth grade program to which the student would otherwise be assigned if the student does not perform satisfactorily on the fifth grade mathematics and reading assessment instruments; or
3. The ninth grade program to which the student would otherwise be assigned if the student does not perform satisfactorily on the eighth grade mathematics and reading assessment instruments. This applies to the assessment instrument administered to students in eighth grade beginning with the 2007–08 school year.

*Education Code 28.0211(a), (n); 19 TAC 101.9*

TEST SCHEDULE

TEA shall provide three opportunities per year for the tests required for grade advancement. The Superintendent shall establish procedures to ensure that:

1. Each eligible student who is absent or does not receive a test score for any test administration shall receive appropriate accelerated instruction as warranted on an individual basis; and
2. Each eligible student who is absent or does not receive a test score for all three test opportunities and is consequently retained shall receive other appropriate means of evaluation, including an alternate assessment, so that the GPC has sufficient evidence for its review upon appeal by a parent or guardian.

*19 TAC 101.2005(c)*

The District must accommodate the request of an out-of-District student to participate in the third administration of a test required for grade advancement if the District is testing one or more local

students on the applicable test and if the out-of-District student has registered to take the test by a date determined by TEA. *19 TAC 101.2005(d)*

NOTICE OF GRADE  
ADVANCEMENT  
TESTING  
REQUIREMENTS

The Superintendent shall be responsible for:

1. Notifying each student and the student's parent or guardian in writing no later than the beginning of the student's first-grade year or no later than the beginning of the student's kindergarten year, for students attending kindergarten in the District, of the testing requirements for grade advancement;
2. Notifying each student in grades 1–8 who is new to the District and the student's parent or guardian in writing of the testing requirements for grade advancement; and
3. Notifying each student required to take the grade advancement tests of the dates, times, and locations of testing.

*19 TAC 101.13*

UNSATISFACTORY  
PERFORMANCE ON  
ASSESSMENT  
INSTRUMENTS

The District shall provide to a student who initially fails to perform satisfactorily on a grade advancement test at least two additional opportunities to take the assessment instrument. *Education Code 28.0211(b)*

ACCELERATED  
INSTRUCTION

Each time a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a grade advancement test, the District shall provide the student with accelerated instruction in the applicable subject area. Accelerated instruction should be consistent with previous diagnostic testing and intervention activities, if any, the student has received. An accelerated instruction group for students who have failed an assessment may not have a ratio of more than ten students for each teacher per class.

Accelerated instruction required after the first and second testing opportunities should be designed to address student needs to the greatest extent possible before the next testing opportunity.

Accelerated instruction shall be based on the following:

1. Assessment of specific student needs, which may include, as appropriate, the following: teacher observations and evaluations; academic progress reports; previous identification of student needs and corresponding interventions; and performance on previous assessment instruments in the applicable subject.
2. Best instructional practices identified through research.

*Education Code 28.0211(c); 19 TAC 101.2013(a), (b), (d)*

If a student fails to perform satisfactorily on a grade advancement test after three attempts, the accelerated instruction shall be provided during the next school year according to an educational plan developed for the student by the student's GPC. The District shall provide the instruction regardless of whether the student has been promoted or retained. The educational plan shall be designed to enable the student to perform at the appropriate grade level by the conclusion of the school year. During the school year, the student shall be monitored to ensure the student is progressing in accordance with the plan. The District shall administer to the student the assessment instrument for the grade level in which the student is placed at the time the District regularly administers the assessment instrument for that school year. *Education Code 28.0211(f)*

The District must accommodate the request of an out-of-District student to participate in any established, on-campus summer accelerated program, provided the student is living away from his or her home district and the program matches the accelerated instruction prescribed by the student's GPC. *19 TAC 101.2013(d)*

NOTICE TO  
PARENTS OF  
PERFORMANCE  
AND ACCELERATED  
INSTRUCTION

In addition to providing the accelerated instruction, the District shall notify the student's parent or guardian of:

1. The student's failure to perform satisfactorily on the assessment instrument;
2. The accelerated instruction program to which the student is assigned; and
3. The possibility that the student might be retained at the same grade level for the next school year.

Whenever the District is required to notify a parent or guardian about the requirements related to promotion and accelerated instruction, the District shall make a good-faith effort to ensure that the notice is provided either in person or by regular mail, is clear and easy to understand, and is written in English or in the parent or guardian's native language.

*Education Code 28.0211(d), (h)*

AFTER EARLY  
IDENTIFICATION OF  
AT-RISK STUDENTS  
NOTICE

The District shall provide early notice to parents or guardians of students identified in a preceding grade to be at risk of failure on the first administration of the test required for grade advancement the next year. The Superintendent shall establish the instruments/procedures to be used to make this determination; however, in the case of students in grade 2, it must include the results of the reading inventory required by Education Code 28.006. This notice shall be provided before the end of the school year preceding the grade advancement requirements. *19 TAC 101.2009(b)*

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

EIE  
(LEGAL)

AFTER FIRST  
TESTING  
OPPORTUNITY  
NOTICE

The District shall notify the parent or guardian of a student who has failed to demonstrate proficiency on the first administration of a grade advancement test. This notification should be made within five working days of the District's receipt of student test results from this administration. This notice shall include the student's test results, a description of the District's grade advancement policy, the accelerated instruction to which the student has been assigned, and the possibility that the student might be retained at the same grade level for the next school year. In addition, the notice shall encourage parents or guardians to meet immediately with the student's teacher to outline mutual responsibilities to support the student during accelerated instruction. *19 TAC 101.2009(c)*

AFTER SECOND  
TESTING  
OPPORTUNITY  
NOTICE

Within five working days of the District's receipt of student test results for the second administration of the test required for grade advancement, the District shall notify the campus principal of results for each student who fails to demonstrate proficiency. Upon receipt of this notice, the principal shall notify the teacher and parent or guardian of the test results. This notice shall include a description of the purpose and responsibilities of a GPC and the time and place for the first meeting of the GPC. *19 TAC 101.2007(c)*

GRADE  
PLACEMENT  
COMMITTEE

After a student fails to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument a second time, a GPC shall be established to prescribe the accelerated instruction the student is to receive before the assessment instrument is administered the third time.

Decisions by the GPC shall be made on an individual student basis to ensure the most effective way to support the student's academic achievement on grade level.

The GPC shall be composed of the principal or the principal's designee, the student's parent or guardian, and the student's teacher of the subject of the grade advancement test on which the student failed to perform satisfactorily. If this teacher is unavailable, the principal shall designate to serve on the committee a teacher certified in the subject of the assessment on which the student failed to perform satisfactorily and who is most familiar with the student's performance in that subject area.

If more than one parent or guardian has the authority to make educational decisions regarding the student, a good faith effort must be made to notify both parents, but participation of any one parent or guardian is sufficient. Either parent or only one guardian may initiate an appeal. If both parents or guardians serve on the GPC but do not agree, either may agree to promote the student (if the remaining members of the GPC also agree to the promotion). The District may accept a parent's or guardian's written designation of another person to serve on the GPC for all purposes. The District

may accept a parent's or guardian's written and signed waiver of participation in the GPC and designation of the remaining members of the GPC as the decision-making entity for all purposes.

If a parent or guardian or designee is unable to attend a meeting, the District may use other methods to ensure parent participation, including individual or conference telephone calls. The District may designate another person to act on behalf of the student in place of a parent, guardian, or designee if no such person can be located. A surrogate parent named to act on behalf of a student with a disability shall be considered a parent for this purpose. If the parent or guardian is unavailable, the remaining members of the GPC must convene as required by law and take any actions required.

*Education Code 28.0211(c); 19 TAC 101.2007(a), (b)*

ALTERNATE  
ASSESSMENT

For the third testing opportunity, the Board may choose to use a state-approved alternate assessment instead of the statewide assessment instrument. If the Board adopts such a policy, the District shall select from a list provided annually by the Commissioner only one test for each applicable grade and subject. The alternate assessment must be given during the period established by the Commissioner in the assessment calendar to coincide with the date of the third administration of the statewide assessment.  
*19 TAC 101.2011(a)-(b)*

PARENTAL  
WAIVER

The Superintendent shall establish a waiver process by which a parent or guardian may request that a student not participate in the third test opportunity due to potential harm to the student. The waiver must provide documentation of potential harm, student need, and other appropriate information. If a parental waiver is granted, the student must still participate in all required accelerated instruction and is subject to retention based on the failure on the second test administration. *19 TAC 101.2015*

AFTER THIRD  
TESTING  
OPPORTUNITY  
NOTICE

The GPC must convene again if a student fails to demonstrate proficiency on the third administration of a test required for grade advancement and is thereby automatically retained at the same grade level. Within five working days of receipt of student test results for this administration, the District shall notify the campus principal of results for each student who fails to demonstrate proficiency. Upon receipt of this notice, the principal shall notify the teacher and parent or guardian of the time and place for the GPC to hold a meeting. This notice shall inform the parent or guardian of the opportunity to appeal the automatic retention of the student. The District shall establish a procedure to ensure a good faith effort is made toward securing the parent's or guardian's receipt of the retention notification. *19 TAC 101.2007(e)*

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
RETENTION AND PROMOTION

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RETENTION AND  
APPEAL

A student who fails to perform satisfactorily after at least three attempts on one of the grade advancement tests shall be retained at the same grade level for the next school year. The parent or guardian may appeal the retention by submitting a request to the GPC within five working days of receipt of the retention notification. *Education Code 28.0211(e); 19 TAC 101.2007(e)*

The GPC may not agree to promote a student unless a parent, guardian, or designee has appealed. *19 TAC 101.2007(b)(2)*

If an appeal is initiated by the parent or guardian, the GPC may decide in favor of promotion only if the GPC concludes, upon review of all facts and circumstances, and in accordance with standards adopted by the Board, that the student is likely to perform on grade level given additional accelerated instruction during the next school year. A student may be promoted only if the decision of the GPC is unanimous.

The review and decision of the GPC must be appropriately documented as meeting the standards adopted by the Board. These standards may include the following:

1. Evidence of satisfactory student performance, including grades, portfolios, work samples, local assessments, previous state assessments, and individual reading and mathematics diagnostic tests or inventories;
2. Improvement in student test performance over the three testing opportunities;
3. Extenuating circumstances that may have adversely affected the student's participation in instruction, the student's participation in the required assessments, or the student's participation in accelerated instruction; and
4. Consideration of whether the student was not enrolled in a Texas public school for part of the school year.

*19 TAC 101.2007(f)*

The placement decision by the GPC shall be made before the start of the next school year, or if applicable, upon re-enrollment of the student after this date. *19 TAC 101.2007(g)*

The committee's decision regarding placement is final and may not be appealed. *Education Code 28.0211(e)*

TRANSFER STUDENTS

The District shall determine a student's previous testing history and, if applicable, the accelerated instructional program he or she has received. *19 TAC 101.2003(g)*

	<p>A student who has been promoted upon completion of a school year in a school other than a Texas public school may be enrolled in that grade without regard to whether the student has successfully completed a grade advancement test. This does not limit the District's ability to appropriately place such a student. <i>19 TAC 101.2007(h)</i> [See FDA]</p>
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP) STUDENTS	<p>The language proficiency assessment committee (LPAC) shall determine appropriate assessment and acceleration options for a limited English proficient (LEP) student who is administered a grade advancement test in English or Spanish. The GPC for a LEP student shall make its decisions in consultation with a member of the student's LPAC. <i>19 TAC 101.2003(e)</i></p>
SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS	<p>A student who is receiving special education services, including a LEP student, who is enrolled in grades 3, 5, or 8, and who is receiving instruction in the essential knowledge and skills in reading or mathematics is eligible for grade advancement testing. The student's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee shall determine appropriate assessment and acceleration options for the student. <i>Education Code 28.0211(i); 19 TAC 101.2003(d), (f)</i></p>
DYSLEXIC STUDENTS	<p>In measuring the academic achievement or proficiency of a student who is dyslexic, the student's potential for achievement or proficiency in the area must be considered. <i>Education Code 28.021(b); 19 TAC 101.2003(f)</i> [See policies at EHB, EKB, and FB]</p>
AGE-APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENT	<p>The Board may establish a policy that provides for the placement of retained students in an age-appropriate learning environment. In accordance with local grade configurations for elementary, middle, and high school campuses, the Board may specify the age by which a retained student should be placed on the next level campus even though not yet promoted to the grade of that campus. <i>19 TAC 101.2019(b)</i></p>
TRANSPORTATION TO ACCELERATED INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS	<p>The District shall provide students required to attend the accelerated programs described above with transportation to those programs if the programs occur outside of regular school hours. <i>Education Code 28.0211(j); 19 TAC 101.2013(c)</i></p>
OPTIONAL EXTENDED-YEAR PROGRAM	<p>A student who does not meet District standards or policies for promotion on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level shall be eligible for services under the optional extended-year program. <i>19 TAC 105.1001</i> [See EHBC]</p> <p>A student who attends at least 90 percent of the extended-year program days and who satisfies the requirements for promotion (academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject</p>



matter of the course or grade level) shall be promoted to the next grade level at the beginning of the next school year. However, if the student's parent presents a written request to the school principal asking that the student not be promoted, the principal shall hold a formal meeting with the parent, the teacher, and the counselor, as soon as practicable after receiving such a request. During the meeting, the principal, teacher, or counselor shall explain the possible effects of not promoting a student. If the parent withdraws the request after the meeting, the student shall be promoted, and the District shall continue to use innovative practices to ensure that the student is successful in school in succeeding school years.

If the District provides an extended-year program, it shall adopt a policy designed to lead to immediate reduction and ultimate elimination of student retention.

*Education Code 29.082(e), (f)* [See EHBC]