

BOARD POLICY
Promotion and Retention

Descriptor Code: IHE

The Webster County Board of Education adopts this policy in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-282 through 20-2-285 (Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy) that bases the placement or promotion of a student into a grade, class or program on an assessment of the academic achievement of the student and a determination of the education setting in which the student is most likely to receive instruction and other services needed in order to succeed and progress to the next higher level of academic achievement.

The Webster County Board of Education shall require all schools governed by its authority to abide by the State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.11, which specifies how the state-adopted assessments administered in grades 3, 5, and 8 will be used in making promotion, placement and retention decisions for students once the State Adopted Assessment is fully implemented by the State Board of Education.

The Board hereby authorizes each school to develop procedures or regulations that specify how the state-adopted assessments and what local promotion criteria will be used in making decisions concerning promotion, placement or retention of students in Grades 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7, (and for students in grades 3, 5, and 8 in years when reliance on state-adopted assessments has been waived). Such procedures or regulations must be approved by the Superintendent or designee(s) and shall provide for the following:

1. Each teacher shall be responsible for determining through a variety of assessments whether a student appears to be on grade level or achieving at a level which, with accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction or interventions, would allow the student to perform at grade level by the conclusion of the subsequent school year.
2. Where the teacher believes the student is not performing at such level, the teacher must implement remediation efforts as set forth in regulations or procedures.
3. A mechanism shall be established whereby a school level team will review a student's performance prior to any decision to retain the student.
4. Prior to a student's retention, the student's parents must be notified of the possibility of retention and given the opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.
5. School level promotion and retention decisions:
may be appealed to the Superintendent whose decision shall be final.

The Superintendent and appropriate staff shall develop rules and regulations governing promotion, placement, and retention of students in grades K-12. Such rules and regulations shall include the following requirements:

- (1) Definition consistent with those contained within State Board Rule 160-4-2-.11
PROMOTION, PLACEMENT AND RETENTION.

- (2) Students shall be tested in accordance with requirements specified in State Board Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs – Student Assessment.
- (3) The promotion of students in grades 3, 5, and 8 shall be determined in accordance with State Board Rule 160-4-2-.11 PROMOTION, PLACEMENT AND RETENTION that requires those students to achieve grade level on the State Adopted Assessment in addition to all other requirements included in local policy.
- (4) The promotion of students in grades 1 - 8 shall be determined by an administrative process led by the principal or designee. Promotion of such students shall be based on a review of factors specified within the district’s rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, the student’s performance on the State Adopted Assessment.
- (5) For grades 1 - 8, the school principal or designee shall utilize the results of the State Adopted Assessment as specified in this policy and related regulations in determining (a) the overall academic achievement of students; (b) an appropriate plan of accelerated, differentiated, or additional instruction for students who do not achieve grade level; and (c) (with specific recommendations if indicated), all students must pass Reading and Math to earn promotion; (d) all students may fail no more than 2 of the following: Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Study Skills.
- (6) Local promotion criteria which have been determined by the Board to be as follows:
 - (a) Kindergarten: First grade placement decisions are made on an individual basis, using the Georgia Kindergarten Assessment Program – Revised (GKAP-R) results in concert with teacher recommendations and other relevant information.
 - (b) Grades 1-5: The student’s teacher shall review the student’s overall academic achievement, including the State Adopted Assessment, and make a recommendation to the principal, consistent with State Board Rule and this policy, as to whether the student should be promoted or retained based on a determination that as a result of such promotion or retention, the student is likely to perform at grade level by the conclusion of the next school year. The principal, in consultation with the grade level team and with input from the Response to Intervention and/or Student Support Team as appropriate, shall make a decision as to whether the student will be promoted or retained.
 - (c) Grades 6-8: The student’s grade level team of teachers shall review the student’s overall academic achievement, including the State Adopted Assessment, and make a recommendation to the principal, consistent with State Board Rule and this policy, as to whether the student should

be promoted or retained based on a determination that as a result of such promotion or retention, the student is likely to perform at grade level by conclusion of the next school year. The principal, in consultation with the grade level team and with input from the Response to Intervention and/or Student Support Team as appropriate, shall make a decision as to whether the student will be promoted or retained.

- (d) Grades 9-12: The number of units required for grade level placement in high school for the 2010-2011 school year are:

To be considered a Sophomore/10th grader a student must earn at least 5 Carnegie units; to be considered a Junior/11th grader a student must earn at least 10 Carnegie units; to be considered a Senior/12th grader a student must earn at least 15 Carnegie units. The number of units required for grade level placement in high school for the 2014-2015 school year are:

To be considered a Sophomore/10th grader a student must earn at least 6 Carnegie units; to be considered a Junior/11th grader a student must earn at least 12 Carnegie units; to be considered a Senior/12th grader a student must earn at least 18 Carnegie units.

With the cooperation of students, parents/guardians and the guidance counselor, every student who enrolled in ninth grade for the school year 2008-2009 and after, may select a career Technical Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathway. Once a CTAE pathway is selected, students may complete three (3) elective units in a coherent sequence. Additionally, all students in grades 9-12 regardless of graduation year will be required to take end of course tests in Coordinate Algebra, Analytical Geometry, Physical Science, Biology, Economics, US History, ninth grade English and American Literature/composition which will count 20% of the final grade in each of these courses. Every student must meet graduation requirements set forth by the Georgia State Board IHF (4-6), IHB, and the local Webster County Board of Education requirements. All students must meet state testing requirements in order to graduate.

Students entering ninth grade on or after July 1, 2011 no longer must take or pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test in English, math, social studies, and science to receive a Georgia High School Diploma. The Georgia Milestone End-of-Course Assessment (EOC) will count 20% of a student's final course grade.

Students who entered ninth grade between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2011 must either pass the Georgia High School graduation Test or at

least one of the two equivalent End-of-Course Tests in each corresponding area (English, math, social studies, and science) to receive a Georgia High School Diploma.

Both local and state requirements must be met for promotion and graduation.

Promotion or Retention for athletic purposes is prohibited.

- (7) Parents or guardians shall be notified annually that placement or promotion of a student into a grade, class, or program will be based on the academic achievement of the student on state assessments and other criteria established by the Board.
- (8) Promotion/retention decisions for students who receive services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) shall be determined by the IEP team.
- (9) Appeals: There shall be no appeal of promotion/retention decisions beyond the Office of the Superintendent. No student shall participate in Graduation Ceremonies unless he/she has met all the requirements to receive a high school diploma from the State of Georgia.

Rule 160-3-1-.07	<u>Testing Programs – Student Assessment</u>
Rule 160-4-2-.13	<u>Statewide Passing Scores</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-0240	<u>Powers and duties of SBOE</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-0281	<u>Assessment of effectiveness of educational programs</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-284	<u>Placement and Promotion Policy – BOE reqts.</u>
Rule 160-4-02.11	<u>Promotion, Placement and Retention rule</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-0282	<u>Georgia Academic Placement and Promotion Policy</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-0283	<u>Placement and Promotion policy</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-0284	<u>Placement and Promotion Policy – BOE reqts.</u>
O.C.G.A. 20-2-0285	<u>Placement and Promotion policy – implementation timetable</u>

Webster County School District

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