



Ending Social Promotion in Grades 3-8:

Overview of Policy

November 19, 2009

Context

Because all of our students deserve a fair chance at success...we stopped the pattern of moving students ahead when they are unprepared to succeed in the next grade level.

The new policy for grades 4 and 6 builds on what we learned by ending social promotion in NYC elementary and middle schools over the past five years.



Promotion Policy for Grades 3-8

Starting in the 2009-10 school year, third through seventh grade students will be promoted if they meet the following requirements:

- > Scoring at Level 2 (basic) or above on Math and ELA assessments

Students who do not meet these requirements during the school year may:

- > Appeal a promotion decision based on a standardized rubric
- > Attend summer school and retake tests or failed courses

For grade 8 students:

- > In addition to meeting the requirements for Grades 3, 5, & 7, students in Grade 8 must pass all core courses (ELA, Math, Science, & Social Studies)
- > If a student fails one or more core courses, they must attend summer school and pass the course they failed during the school

For certain students with disabilities, English language learners, overage students, and previously retained students have modified promotional criteria

How we support students academically to meet promotion standards

We will make sure that schools have the tools they need to help fourth and sixth grade students, especially those who are struggling, to meet and exceed promotion standards.

Guidance Counselors

Inquiry Teams

Ongoing Assessments

Achievement Reporting and Innovation System (ARIS)

> ARIS Parent Link

Accountability Tools

Academic Strategies and Programs

RAND's Findings

- Fifth graders who scored a level 1 or 2 in fourth grade performed better under the policy than comparable students who were not subject to the policy.
- Students experienced no negative socio-emotional effects when subject to the policy.
- Positive impacts on student achievement were also sustained into middle school.
- Fifth grade students subject to the policy performed significantly better on the 7th grade assessments than they would have in absence of the policy.
- Administrators reported that the promotion policy focused the instructional efforts of schools, made parents more concerned about student progress, and provided additional resources to support low-achieving students.

RAND's Findings

The study also made some important discoveries about what works and what needs improvement in terms of interventions:

- > One-on-one tutoring
- > Small group tutoring
- > Saturday prep academies and the Summer Success academies also had a significant and positive impact on Math performance

RAND's Recommendations

We are taking into consideration RAND's key recommendations:

- > Continue early identification of students and provision of Academic Intervention Service (AIS).
- > Enable AIS providers to work consistently with students who need services.
- > Encourage schools to consider the expected duration and participation when constructing Saturday programs.
- > Continue to encourage students to attend summer school.

Timeline for Roll Out of Grades 3-8

Fall, 2009

- Identification of at-risk students and provision of academic support

Winter, 2010

- Distribute “Promotion In Doubt” letters to families
- Continue provision of academic support

Spring, 2010

- ELA and math assessments
- Communicate promotion decisions to families
- Summer school placement and support

Summer, 2010

- Summer school
- August assessments
- Communicate final promotion decisions to families

Consultation Process: CEC Meetings

Community Superintendents made presentations and answered questions in meetings throughout October and November

Community Superintendents encouraged parents and community members to review the proposed policy and provide feedback as follows:

The complete text of the proposed revisions to Chancellor's Regulation A-501 can be viewed at the Panel for Education Policy's website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/default.htm>

To share feedback:

- e-mail promotionpolicy@schools.nyc.gov
- call (212) 374 – 6104