

**GRADING, PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND GRADUATION**

**Grading:** The grading system is designed to promote continuous evaluation of student performance, communicate student progress, and celebrate student successes. Administrative Regulations or Student Handbook may set forth the District's grading system, including class ranking.

**Testing:** No minor student shall be required to submit to psychiatric or psychological examination, testing or treatment without the prior written consent of the parent or guardian. No District employee (without written parental consent) shall elicit by written survey or written examination from any student information of a personal or private nature concerning any of the following areas:

1. Political affiliations;
2. Religious beliefs;
3. Sexual behavior and attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
5. Mental or psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family;
6. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship;
7. Legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers; and
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

This policy does not require parental consent to regular classroom activities, the curriculum or any teaching techniques or methods.

**Homework:** Teachers may assign homework to students. The type, frequency, and quantity of homework to be assigned shall be determined by the teacher based on the needs of the students and the subject matter being taught.

**Report Cards and Progress Reports:** Report cards shall be sent to parents and/or guardians at the end of each nine-week period. In addition, progress reports may be sent during the nine-week period and telephone calls and personal visits may be scheduled as needed. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled periodically. A teacher may recommend that a student not be given credit due to a failing grade in the course or due to a failure to meet attendance or tardiness requirements.

**Transcripts:** A transcript is any record of a grade or grades given to a student by a teacher. Students requesting a copy of their transcript shall be provided a copy. However, if a student has

failed to return any textbook or failed to make payment for a textbook which has not been returned, the District shall withhold the transcript until such time as payment is made. The Superintendent may waive the withholding of a student's transcript because of failure to return a textbook or failure to remit payment for a textbook depending on the circumstances involved.

**Promotion:** Students may be promoted based on proficiency as provided by law and the regulations of the State Department of Education.

**Retention and Course Failure:** In general, students shall be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially, and emotionally. Based on the District's grading system, students in grades 9-12 shall receive credit for courses and shall be classified into grade levels based on the number of course credits completed. The educational program shall provide for the continuous progress of students from grade to grade, with students spending one year in each grade. However, some students may benefit from staying another year in the same grade, and under certain circumstances, a student may be retained more than once.

Each school shall form a committee to review and make decisions regarding retention and promotion. The committee shall be composed of a classroom teacher, a counselor when available, the building principal, and any additional personnel assigned by the principal. Evidence to be considered by the committee shall include testing, assignments, and the student's level of maturity. Retention may be considered when:

1. The student is achieving significantly below ability and grade level;
2. Retention would not cause an undue social and emotional adjustment; and
3. Retention would have a reasonable chance of benefitting the student's development.

Whenever the committee recommends that a student be retained at the present grade level or recommends that a high school student not be passed in a course, the student's parent or guardian shall be notified of such recommendation. If the student's parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the recommendation, the parent or guardian may appeal the decision to the Board by submitting a written request for an appeal to the Superintendent. The decision of the Board shall be final.

**Acceleration:** In certain circumstances, students may be accelerated ahead of grade level. Such acceleration shall only occur after discussion with the student's teachers and counselors and approval of the student's parent or guardian and principal.

**Graduation Requirements:** In order to receive a diploma from the District, students must complete certain course requirements and be enrolled in the District as set forth in Administrative Regulations or Student Handbook.

**Graduation Exercises:** Graduation exercises are an important event in the educational process, and student participation in and student conduct at graduation exercises shall be governed by Administrative Regulations or Student Handbook.