

Sparta Area School District

Article 506 A - Promotion and Retention at Fourth Grade

Promotion of students from the fourth grade to the fifth grade and from the eighth grade to the ninth grade is affected by State Statutes [ss. 118.33 (6)(a)]. Other district policies relating to the promotion of students apply if they are not inconsistent with this policy. Beginning on September 1, 2002, no student may be promoted from the fourth to the fifth grade or from the eighth to the ninth grade unless the student satisfies the criteria for promotion outlined in this policy.

Grade advancement decisions will be based on the four criteria listed below. For those students opted out of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE), judgment is based on the other three specified criteria.

Criteria 1. Student Score on the WKCE

Student must receive a score of “proficient” or above on 4 of the 5 subtests that comprise the WKCE. Students satisfying this requirement do not need to meet the following three criteria. Students failing to meet this requirement must satisfy one of the following criteria.

Criteria 2. Student’s Academic Performance

Fourth grade students must pass 5 out of the 6 semesters of the core subjects of reading, writing and math or successfully complete the goals and objectives on the Individual Education Plan (IEP), English as a Second Language Plan (ESOL), Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP), 504 Plan, or Sparta Teachers Assistance Team Plan (STAT). Students may make up a maximum of 2 semester failures in the core courses by successfully completing remedial summer school work.

Criteria 3. Teacher Recommendations

Fourth grade students who do not meet one of the first two criteria must secure from three classroom teachers, a guidance counselor, and a building administrator a consensus opinion recommending promotion based on additional factors which may include, but are not limited to:

- The student’s developmental history.
- The type and quality of alternative instructional strategies available and currently being implemented (i.e. direct instruction, remedial services, alternative school, cooperative learning, tutoring, etc.).
- The extent of alternative programming available in both the new and repeated grade.
- The results of special education testing.
- The age of the student.

The committee may recommend promotion, promotion based upon successful remediation, or retention.

Criteria 4. Other Academic Criteria Specified by the School Board

A student who successfully completes a remediation program, approved by building administration, may advance from grade four to five or eight to nine.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statute 118.33 (6)

Cross Reference: Article 506 – Elementary School Promotion and Retention

Approved:

Revised: June 28, 2005