Sparta Area School District

Article 506 B - Promotion and Retention at Eighth Grade

Promotion of students from the fourth grade to the fifth grade and from the eighth grade to the ninth grade is influenced by State Statute [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. Students must meet two of the first three criteria. Special circumstances may be considered under the fourth criteria.

Criteria 1. Student’s Academic Performance

Eighth grade students must pass reading and math coursework, and 4 or more of their remaining 6 semester core courses (and may not fail both semesters of the same course) 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 4 semester failures in the core courses by successfully completing remedial summer school work. Students will have the opportunity to make up 2 additional first semester failures by successfully completing the required work during Saturday school held during the second semester. Students who fail more than 6 core classes will not be able to meet this criteria.

Criteria 2. Student Score on the WKCE

In addition to criteria 1, students must receive a score of “proficient” or above on 3 of the 5 subtests that comprise the WKCE. Students who do not participate in the WKCE will not be able to meet this criteria.

Criteria 3. Teacher Recommendations

Eighth grade students who do not meet one of the first two criteria must secure from their core team 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 eight to nine.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statute 118.33 (6)

Cross Reference: Article 505 – Middle School Promotion and Retention

Approved:

Revised: June 28, 2005