

Wilson County Board of Education

Policy Description:

Promotion and Retention

Page 1 of 2

Policy Number:

4.603

Amended Date:

04/06/09

Rescinds:
Board Minutes
400-I-D(a)

Issued: 08/96

12/03/01

1 Students will normally progress annually in sequential order from grade to grade. The professional staff will
2 place students at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally. Retention should
3 only be considered after all reasonable efforts at remediation have been attempted. Retentions may be made
4 when, in the judgment of the teacher, such retentions are in the best interest of the students. Decisions to retain
5 are subject to review and approval of the principal after consultation with the teacher.

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7 In order to enhance the opportunity for remediation, students with problems shall be identified as early as
8 possible in the school year. Parents shall be notified when problems are identified and shall be informed
9 periodically of remedial efforts and given progress reports.

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11 Before a student is retained, the parents shall be informed in writing and shall be requested to participate in a
12 conference at least six (6) weeks before the end of the school year.

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14 The following factors shall be considered in making a decision on promotion and retention:¹

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16 1. **Mastery of essential competencies.** Students shall have mastered essential skills sufficiently to ensure
17 a likelihood of success at the next grade level.
- 18 2. **Interventions.** Retention shall only be considered after student response to appropriate intervention
19 has been documented and evaluated.
- 20 3. **Flexible placement.** Use of conditional promotion, remedial summer programs, assignment to
21 transitional classes, and other approaches to meeting the needs of students shall be given
22 consideration.
- 23 4. **Attendance.** Attendance shall become a relevant factor only when excessive absenteeism becomes an
24 educational problem.²
- 25 5. **Conduct.** Retention shall not be used as a disciplinary measure.
- 26 6. **Previous retention.** Except under unusual circumstances, students shall not be retained more than
27 once in grades K-6.
- 28 7. **Grade level.** Retention shall be considered more appropriate in grades K-3.
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¹ TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.05(3)(b)

² TCA 49-2-203(b)(7); TCA 49-6-3002

1 Educational experiences for the repeated year shall be varied in order to provide an appropriate instructional
2 program. Variations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

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- 4 1. Different teacher(s);
- 5 2. Different techniques and strategies;
- 6 3. Different materials; and
- 7 4. Varying lengths of time per subject and/or physical setting in classroom.
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9 **MIDDLE SCHOOLS PASS/FAIL**

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11 Students in the middle grades should pass with an average grade of 70% or above in at least four of the five core
12 subjects that include Language Arts/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Exploratory Classes
13 (composite average).

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15 Students who fail in the core subjects may attempt to pass those subjects in remedial programs prior to the
16 beginning of the next school year. Up to two core subjects may be attempted in remediation programs.
17 Exploratory subjects are not available for remediation.

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19 **HIGH SCHOOLS PASS/FAIL**

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21 Advancement from grade to grade is based on the number of credits which a student accumulates each school
22 year. Grade classification is determined as follows:

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- 24 ▪ Freshman (9th Grade) – promoted from the eighth grade
- 25 ▪ Sophomore (10th Grade) – earned six (6) credits
- 26 ▪ Junior (11th Grade) – earned thirteen (13) credits
- 27 ▪ Senior (12th Grade) – earned twenty (20) credits
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29 Every effort shall be made to place a student who fails a course with a teacher other than the one under whom
30 the student received a failing grade.

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