

Series	400	Students
Section	440	Student Rights and Responsibilities
Policy	449	Grade Advancement Policy for Grades 4 and 8

The promotion of students from the 4th grade to the 5th grade and from the 8th grade to the 9th grade is directed by law; therefore, this policy applies to such promotions. Other District policies relating to the promotion of students apply if they are not inconsistent with the policy. Beginning September 1, 2003, no student may be promoted from the 4th grade to the 5th grade or from the 8th grade to the 9th grade unless the student satisfies the criteria for promotion in this policy.

While this policy relates to grades 4 and 8, the Kewaskum School Board encourages retention at the lowest grade level possible based on strong academic and developmental considerations. The Board believes that academic intervention and effective remediation, based on varied and proven teaching practices should occur very early in the student's school career. All students are held to the same academic content standards and high expectations. Early, frequent and effective intervention also will be based on a variety of assessment data, teacher recommendation, varied teaching methods and/or a referral to external resources such as a medical examination referral or other community agency support.

The following criteria will be considered in determining whether to promote a student from the 4th grade to the 5th grade or from the 8th grade to the 9th grade. A student will be promoted from the 4th to the 5th grade or from the 8th grade to the 9th grade when one of the following criteria is met:

1. The student will automatically advance to either 5th or 9th grade if she/he scores above the minimum level in each of the five (5) sub-tests on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) AND has passed each core subject area in the classroom, OR:
2. The student scores minimal in one or more of the five (5) WKCE subtests, or if the student does not take one or more of the WKCE sub-tests, they may be approved as listed in a, b and c below:
 - a. The student's academic performance in the regular classroom has been adequate for grade advancement even though the student may need further intervention in the 5 core subject areas measured on the WKCE. The student must have achieved the instructional objectives set for his/her grade level and demonstrated sufficient proficiency on a variety of assessment formats to move ahead on the educational program in the next grade with assistance (intensive summer school intervention and/or sustained assistance during the next school year, or other options approved by the building principal or designee.)
 - b. The student has received the recommendations of teachers who have provided direct instruction, which is based solely on the student's academic performance.
 - c. The student has passed other District-approved tests or classroom assessments.

Recommendations regarding students designated for EEN placement:

Accommodations to these requirements may be made for students with Special Education Needs or requirements consistent with state law, Department of Public Instruction Rules and Regulations and established district policies. This includes students with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency.

Appeals Process:

This responsibility for enforcement of this policy shall rest with the building principal or his/her designee.

After a determination of Non-Advancement to either grade 5 or grade 9, the parent/guardian may appeal to the building principal within five (5) days of receipt of notice. Within ten (10) workdays, the principal shall give a written response to the parent/guardian. If the Non-Advancement is upheld by the principal, the parent may appeal to the District Administrator within five (5) days of receipt of notice from the principal. The District Administrator shall schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian within ten (10) workdays from the date of receipt of appeal. The District Administrator shall render a decision to the parents within five (5) workdays. There is no appeal process beyond the District Administrator.

Communications Process:

Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified according to the District's formal communication plan on a timely basis to assist with intervention and remedial plans. Accommodations will be provided to disadvantaged students or At-Risk students in accordance with the state law and regulations. Accommodations will also address transfer students from home schools or other accredited schools.

**Legal Reference: Wisc. Statues 115.77, 118.15, 118.153, 118.30,
118.33**

Cross Reference: KBP 448

Adopted: April 9, 2001

Reviewed: 2004