

ACCELERATION/PROMOTION/RETENTION

The acceleration, promotion or retention of students shall be related to Long Hill Township School district goals and objectives, curricular proficiencies and aspirations of the district. The educational program shall provide for the continuous progress of students from one grade to the next. Moreover, whereas there is little scientific research substantiating the value of non-promotion and considerable research to the contrary, the Long Hill Township Board of Education (BOE) believes that any consideration given to non-promotion of any student at any grade level may only be considered after the most thorough review and evaluation process. It therefore adopts this policy as relates to the acceleration, promotion and retention of the students of the district.

I. Criteria

When reviewing students for acceleration, promotion or retention, the criteria to be considered shall include:

- A. The achievement of district-required proficiency levels in basic communications and computational skills;
- B. Continuous growth and achievement in all program areas commensurate with ability and grade-level expectations including report card grades, standardized testing results, and other measurable criteria;
- C. Evidence of social and emotional maturity necessary for a successful learning experience;
- D. Attendance records and other mandated or permissible information;
- E. Number of years in school; number of years at a grade level; social, academic and vocational development; chronological age; physical development and size; and need for opportunities at another grade level;
- F. Placement of the student in any of the district's specialized programs for educationally disadvantaged students whether or not classified by the Child Study Team;
- G. The total well-being of the student;
- H. A determination as to whether any academic benefit derived will be of substantive permanent academic growth and not some academic value principally for the year retained shall be made;
- I. No students shall be retained more than once at a single grade level.

II. Acceleration

- A. Students may be considered for acceleration to a grade level other than that to which they might ordinarily be chronologically eligible by age. This may take place during the

school year or at the end of the school year during which time the pupil may be promoted to a grade level higher than the next numerical grade level. This may be considered when the pupil's performance and abilities indicate that the demands of a higher grade level will meet their needs better than an enrichment of the present grade-level curriculum.

- B. Acceleration also may include shared-grade experiences in which a pupil attends class(es) for a particular subject(s) at a higher grade level. It also may include individualized study programs of an accelerated nature mentored by the regular classroom/subject teacher or by a separate teacher.

III. Minimum Academic Requirements

When reviewing students for promotion to another grade level, the following minimum academic requirements must be achieved in addition to consideration of the criteria outlines above:

- A. Course completion: Successful completion of the course requirements in all but one of the major subject areas and passing grades or other than "unsatisfactory" grades in all but one of the special subject areas if one major area has not been passed.
- B. Notification process: A notice shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt request, and by regular mail to the parents/guardians no later than one week after the commencement of the last marking period of the school year. Said notice shall state that the pupil may be in danger of non-promotion. Any pupil being considered for non-promotion shall:
 - 1. Have been reviewed by the Intervention and Referral Services Committee or a committee with similar functions from which there were interventions developed, attempted, monitored, assessed, and, if necessary, modified;
 - 2. Have been evaluated by the Child Study Team for any potential learning disabilities;
 - 3. Have had his/her progress discussed with the parents/guardians prior to the conclusion of the third academic quarter;
 - 4. Be done only on the recommendation of the building principal to the Chief School Administrator (CSA), subject to the approval of the CSA.

IV. Educationally Disadvantaged Students

- A. Classified students: Students classified by the Child Study Team shall be exempt from these requirements. Any such educationally classified student who shall have attained the age of 14 years or who shall attain the age of 14 years on or before October 1 shall be promoted to a secondary school irrespective of the grade placement at the time of

eligibility for advancement to a secondary school. Any such student, subject to the educational recommendation of the program administrator and the building principal to the CSA, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of any other student that are a part of any promotion program or related activities generally extended to students in the grade level including, but not limited to, participation in any program exercise, receipt of any award or certificate, and participation in grade level social activities including end-of-the-year trips and events, subject to the approval of the CSA.

- B. Other disadvantaged students: Any student in any of the District’s special support programs may be considered in the same manner as classified students if the nature of their disadvantage is the primary cause for their lack of sufficient progress.

V. Appeal Process

In the event that a parent/guardian disagrees with any decision rendered under this policy that affects any of their children, under the parent/guardian may appeal in writing to the appropriate program administrator. The program administrator shall render to the parent/guardian a decision in writing within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the parent/guardian, the parent/guardian may, with 10 school days of the receipt of the decision, appeal in writing the matter to the CSA. If there is such an appeal, the CSA shall render to the parent/guardian a decision in writing within 30 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. The CSA shall be the final level of resolution in the appeal process with the CSA’s decision being final. During the appeal process, the decision being appealed shall remain in effect.

Reviewed and readopted; February 13, 2012

First Reading: June 26, 2000

Second Reading: January 22, 2001

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:4-24	Determining efficiency of schools; report to state board
N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-2	Boards of Education; establishment of standards
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9	Pupil promotion and remediation; policies and procedures
N.J.A.C.6a:32-12.1	Reporting requirements