

*Policy*

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

Code **IHE** Adopted: **4/23/1992** Latest Revision: **03/10/2022**

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The district affirms academic excellence for all students. The administrative and teaching staff will strive to provide instruction that increases the opportunity for each student to meet academic content standards and to be considered for promotion from one grade to the next.

This policy will be applicable to all students who are in the regular education program. Students with disabilities as defined by law and regulation will be subject to the provisions of these promotion criteria unless the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) defines alternative goals and promotion standards. The placement/IEP committee will decide whether regular or alternative promotion standards will be set for the student initially and thereafter at the annual review of the IEP.

### **Kindergarten (K)**

Kindergarten students are expected to learn the skills contained in all state and district kindergarten academic standards. When formal and informal assessments indicate that a kindergarten student is not developmentally ready for first grade, retention will be considered by the teacher, principal, and the parent will be informed.

### **Grades One through Eight (1-8)**

Students in grades one through eight will be instructed in grade-level content specific state academic standards that are developmentally appropriate and rich in rigor. Students will be promoted to the next grade if they possess the knowledge and skills to their grade levels and/or abilities as demonstrated on multiple measurements by their academic performance, attendance and state and national achievement scores.

In order to be promoted to the next grade level, a student must meet the following criteria:

Reading

Completion and mastery of reading/language arts grade-level standards and a yearly passing average of 60. Mathematics

Completion and mastery of grade-level standards and a yearly passing average of 60.

## PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Code: IHE

Page 2 of 3

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### Grades Nine through Twelve (9-12)

The determination of the high school academic assignment is determined by the number of successfully completed Carnegie units of credit. Carnegie units of credit will only be awarded when the students meets the requirements of the district attendance policy.

Grade 9 – Promotion from 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Grade 10 – ~~5 units~~ 6 units with 1 math unit and 1 English unit

~~The student must have at least one unit in a required English and one unit in a required Math and be enrolled in courses leading to an additional unit of credit in both English and math.~~

Grade 11 – ~~11 units~~ 12 units with 2 math units and 2 English units

~~The student must have at least two required units of English and two units of required Math.~~

Grade 12 – ~~17 units~~ 18 units with 3 math units and 3 English units

~~The student must have at least two units each in English and mathematics and be enrolled in course work for the following year that will allow them to complete the 24 units needed for the state high school diploma.~~

Grade level homeroom assignments are determined at the beginning of each school year. A transfer student's homeroom grade assignment is contingent upon the presentation of an official school transcript from an accredited school.

### Assurances

Promotion/retention decisions for all students will be determined by the student's ability to perform at the current grade level based on assessment results, the student's class performance and/or teacher judgment as defined by the Education Accountability Act (EAA) of 1998. Other factors that may be considered are reports cards, interim reports, portfolios, attendance records, and intervention records. The final decision concerning promotion or retention rests with the principal **collaborating with the teacher**.

If a student is recommended for a retention within the same grade, a referral will be made to the MultiTiered System of Support (MTSS) Team.

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

Code: **IHE**

Page 3 of 3

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### **Notification to Parents/Guardians Third Grade Retention**

[Act 284 \(Read to Succeed\)](#) requires that, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of third grade as indicated by scoring at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment that equates to Not Met 1 on the SC Ready. A student may be exempt for good cause from the mandatory retention but shall continue to receive instructional support and services and reading intervention appropriate for their age and reading level. The Read to Succeed Team is aware of research around third grade retention and is currently researching models and solutions in other states and among stakeholders in South Carolina.

Florence County School District Three will distribute information about this promotion/retention process to every student and parent/legal guardian. The district will also make every effort to educate and inform parents/legal guardians and students through means such as newsletters, student handbooks, and SIC/PTO meetings.

The district will also review policies regarding academic conferences, academic plans for students and district-level reviews to ensure compliance with the EAA. A copy of these guidelines must be given to every student and his/her parent or legal guardian.

Follow-up parent conferences for those students identified for academic assistance will be held by the 165<sup>th</sup> day to adjust academic assistance plans and to discuss the possibilities of comprehensive remediation of retention. Appropriate school personnel will review the student's progress at the end of the school year. If a student is not meeting academic achievement standards or is not meeting the terms of his/her academic plan, the district will require the student to successfully complete the comprehensive remediation program in order to be promoted to the next grade or will retain the student at his/her present grade.

### **District Appeals Process for Read to Succeed**

The parent/legal guardian may appeal the comprehensive remediation program, summer school, or retention decision to a District Academic Review Team. Parents who choose to appeal must do so in writing within seven days after the notification meeting and must specify the reasons for disagreement with the recommendation. The District Academic Review Team will render a decision on the matter within ten working days after receipt of the appeal. The decision and the reasons will be in writing and copies sent to the appellant (parent/legal guardian) and the principal.

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Adopted: 04/23/92; Revised 07/22/93, 09/17/98, 05/18/00, 02/21/02, 04/19/07, 04/20/17, 09/21/17, 02/11/2020, 03/10/2022

# IHE – PROMOTION AND RETENTION

## *Administrative Rule*

Code **IHE-R**

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### Early Graduation

Early graduation is defined as graduating prior to the completion of 4 consecutive years of high school beginning with the first semester of a student's freshman year in high school. Early graduation will be allowed under the following guidelines:

1. Early graduation will only be considered once a student has completed a minimum of the six semesters.
2. All requirements for High School graduation must have been met.  
Students interested in early graduation must meet with the principal, counselor and at least one parent/guardian to develop a plan for early graduation and complete an application requesting permission to graduate early. The plan must be submitted to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for approval prior to the start of the proposed last semester of high school.
3. Diplomas will only be awarded at the end of a year, and then only to students who completed their last semester as a full-time Lake City High School student.
4. Students who complete their work and are eligible for early graduation may participate in traditional graduation exercises at the end of the school year.
5. Early graduates will be included in the class rank of the class with which they are eligible to participate in graduation exercises.
6. Early graduates are not eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian awards.
7. Early graduates lose all student privileges upon graduation including, but not limited to, participation in homecoming, prom, sports, and fine arts activities.

*Florence County School District Three*