

ANN JERKINS-HARRIS



2023-2024

AJHAE: SCHOOL POLICY ON GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION
2023-2024

902

ANN JERKINS HARRIS ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE
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ANN JERKINS-HARRIS ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

SCHOOL POLICY ON GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION

AJHAE's policy prohibits the promotion of a student to the next grade level if the student has been truant for more than ten per cent of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

AJHAE recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth. It shall be the policy of the Board that each student is moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development.

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when s/he has:

- A. completed the State-mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- B. in the opinion of his/her principal and teachers, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- C. demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him/her to move ahead to the educational program of the next grade.

The Superintendent/School Leader shall develop guidelines for the annual assessment of all first, second, and third grade students on their reading proficiency and identify those students who are reading below grade level.

S/He shall ensure that each student's teacher is involved in the assessment and in the identification of those students who are reading below grade level. All third grade students who score in the lowest category on the State-mandated 3rd grade reading achievement test will be retained unless either of the following requirements has been met:

- A. the student has been excused from taking the test under R.C. 3301.0711(C)(1), or
- B. the student's principal and reading teacher agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the 4th grade.

The Superintendent/ School Leader shall:

- A. require a student be retained if s/he is truant (unexcused absence) for ten percent (10%) or more of the required school days and has failed at least two (2) courses of study, unless the principal and the teachers of the failed subjects determine that the student is academically prepared to be promoted;
- B. require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at grade level;
- C. have the final responsibility for determining the promotion or retention of each student, except for third grade students, as per the Third Grade Guarantee. Promotion/Retention of Third Grade Students For any student who does not attain by the end of the third grade at least a score in the range designated by statute in the reading test prescribed under R.C. 3301.0710(A)(2)(c), the District shall offer intensive remediation services during the summer following third grade.

Beginning with students who enter the third grade in the 2013-2014 school year, no student shall be promoted to the fourth grade who attains a score in the range designated by R.C. 3310.0710(A)(3) on the assessment prescribed to measure skill in English language arts (ELA) expected at the end of third grade unless one of the following applies:

- A. the student is limited English proficient student who has been enrolled in United States schools for less than two (2) full school years and has had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English as a second language program; or
- B. the student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under R. C. Chapter 3323 and the student's individualized education program (IEP) exempts the student from retention under this division; or
- C. the student demonstrates an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment as determined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE); or
- D. all of the following apply:
 - 1. The student is a child with a disability entitled to special education and related services under R.C. Chapter 3323.
 - 2. The student has taken the third grade English language arts achievement assessment, as prescribed.
 - 3. The student's IEP under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, shows that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for two school years, but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading.
 - 4. The student previously was retained in any of grades kindergarten to three. or E. the student received intensive remediation for reading for two school years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in any of grades kindergarten to three. Any such student shall continue to receive intensive reading instruction in grade four. The instruction shall include an altered instructional day that includes specialized diagnostic information and specific research-based reading strategies that have been successful in improving reading among low performing readers.

RETENTION EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE THIRD GRADE GUARANTEE:

Each school year, a student must reach the state determined cut-score on the state assessment to move on to the fourth grade. If a student does not reach the state mandated required passing score, the student may still move on to fourth grade if she or he meets the qualifying exemption: These exemptions apply to:

- Limited English proficient students who have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than three full school years and have had less than three years of instruction in an English as a Second Language program.
- Special education students whose IEPs specifically exempt them from retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.
- Any student who has received intensive remediation for two years and was previously retained in kindergarten through the third grade; and
- Students who demonstrate reading competency on a Reading Alternative approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

Third Grade Guarantee Alternate Assessment Procedure

No school district shall promote to fourth grade any student who does not attain at least the equivalent level of achievement designated under division (A)(3) of section 3301.0710 of the Revised Code on the assessment prescribed under that section to measure skill in English language arts expected at the end of third grade as demonstrated by an acceptable level of performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment determined by the department of education.

Summer Promotion Under the Third Grade Guarantee Districts will be able to administer a new standardized reading assessment provided by ODE to act as a summer version of the Grade 3 state reading assessment.

If the student participates in the remediation services and demonstrates reading proficiency in accordance with standards adopted by the department prior to the start of fourth grade through the alternative assessment, the district shall promote the student to the fourth grade in the fall.

If a student does not demonstrate proficiency on the alternative assessment after completing the summer reading intervention program, the student should continue to receive intensive reading remediation services appropriate for the student's reading deficiency. The administration of the summer exam will be the same as the spring assessment with regard to administration procedures and the cost of the assessment.

Students will be required to reach the ODE retention cut score to qualify for summer promotion. Students who receive a summer promotion should continue to receive appropriate reading intervention in the fourth grade.

Student Reenters the Third Grade – Retention into Third Grade

If the student does not demonstrate proficiency in reading during the summer, then the student will be considered a retained student. The student will enter the third grade for the second time. Any promotion after the start of the school year, even as early as September, would be a midyear promotion.

Midyear Promotion in the Third Grade Guarantee

Any student retained by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee is eligible to be promoted during that school year in accordance with the district's established midyear promotion policy based on ORC. Such action shall be considered in consultation with the parent/guardian, classroom teacher, and/or reading teacher with the concurrence of the building administrator and approval of the Superintendent.

A student must show that she/he has attained on-level reading for mid-fourth grade to be promoted at mid-year to fourth grade. This will help ensure the student is academically prepared in the other subject areas when promoted midyear. The district will determine the appropriate fourth grade instruction for the student by:

- Determining the measures that will be used to assess proficiency in each subject; and
 - Assessing whether the student can demonstrate proficiency in "end of third grade standards" for mathematics, science and/or social studies. Although a student may receive appropriate fourth grade instruction in the other subject areas, the student will still be considered a third-grade student unless promoted midyear or formally accelerated. If a student received fourth grade appropriate instruction during their retained third grade year, but did not meet the requirements for midyear promotion, the student will enter fourth grade the following year, and potentially have a stronger foundation in the other subject areas. Once a student is promoted midyear, they are considered a fourth-grade student in all subjects and will take the fourth grade state assessments.
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