

## PROMOTION

### Generally

Promotion from one grade to another shall be determined by a student's proficiency in the knowledge and skills contained within the curriculum for the grade level in which the student is enrolled.

The evaluation of the student's proficiency in the core academic areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, science, and history/social science shall be the fundamental basis of the decision to promote a student. That evaluation shall include consideration of the student's performance on Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment in those grades and subjects where the tests are administered. Remediation shall be required for students who fail to achieve a passing score on any core academic area SOL test. Remediation will not be required for any course at any grade level in cases where a student repeats that course or grade.

Health, art, music, physical education, vocational and technical education, and other electives are critical components of the curriculum as well. At certain grade levels their study is required by the City of Covington School Board, and students are expected to be proficient in the knowledge and skills associated with these courses. However, the Board of Education has not designated those subjects as core academic areas nor chosen to measure their mastery by students. Therefore, promotion from one grade level to another is not dependent upon proficiency in these subjects.

### Procedures to Determine Promotion or Retention in Elementary School

The decision to promote or retain a student in elementary school shall be primarily based upon teacher recommendation. The parents of students who are not mastering the knowledge and skills of the curriculum shall be notified as early as is reasonable. Parents shall be involved in the discussion of whether to retain a student.

At the school level, the final decision to promote or retain a student rests with the principal. Parents who wish to appeal the principal's decision shall direct their appeal in writing to the Superintendent.

### Primary School: Guidelines for Grades PK-3

Students are expected to be proficient in the four core academic areas: reading/language arts (including spelling, grammar, composition, and handwriting), mathematical concepts and computation, science, and history and social science. Students in grades K-3 must demonstrate a proficient level of knowledge and skills in language arts and in a minimum of two of the three other core academic areas of the curriculum in order to be promoted to the next grade level. For students who do not meet all requirements for promotion, satisfactory completion of an approved remedial program may be the basis for promotion to the next grade level.

In most cases, students should not be retained more than once in grades PK-3.

#### Procedures to Determine Promotion or Retention in Intermediate School

The decision to promote or retain a student in intermediate school shall be primarily based upon the recommendation of a committee of the student's teachers, counselor, and administrator. The parents of students who are not mastering the knowledge and skills of the curriculum shall be notified as early as is reasonable.

At the school level, the final decision to promote or retain a student rests with the principal. Parents who wish to appeal the principals' decision shall direct their appeal in writing to the Superintendent.

#### Intermediate School: Grades 4-7

Students are expected to be proficient in the four academic areas: reading/language arts (including spelling, grammar, composition, and handwriting), mathematical concepts and computation, science, and history and social science. Students in grades 4-7 must demonstrate a proficient level of knowledge and skills in a minimum of three of the four academic areas of the curriculum in order to be promoted to the next grade level. For students who do not meet all requirements for promotion, satisfactory completion of an approved remedial program may be the basis for promotion to the next grade level.

#### High School: Grade 8

Students in grade 8 must demonstrate a proficient level of knowledge and skills in three of the four core academic areas (English, mathematics, science, and history and social science) and pass five (5) subjects in order to be promoted to grade 9. Non-elective subjects that were failed in grade 8 must be repeated. Elective subjects that were failed in grade 8 may be repeated.

#### Procedures for Granting Credit in High School

Credit toward the requirements for graduation is awarded for classes taught on the high school level and for certain high school level classes taught at grade 8. The grade classification of a student in high school shall be based upon the accumulation of individual course credits.

The determination of whether a student is proficient in the knowledge and skills required by a course's curriculum shall be the responsibility of the teacher of the course. The parents of students who are not mastering the knowledge and skills of a course's curriculum shall be notified as early as is reasonable.

At the school level, the final decision to grant credit for a course is the principal's responsibility. Parents who wish to appeal the principal's decision shall direct their appeal in writing to the Superintendent.

### High School: Grades 8-12 Courses Carrying High School Credit

#### A. Courses with No End-of-Course SOL Testing Requirement

Students must pass the course requirements with a minimum grade of "70" or "D" in order to receive a unit of credit.

#### B. Verified Credit

Six verified credits are required for graduation with a Standard Diploma and nine verified credits are required for graduation with an Advanced Studies Diploma.

#### Four options exist for earning verified credit:

1. Students who achieve a passing score on an end-of-course SOL test and successfully complete the course requirements shall be awarded a verified unit of credit in that course. Students may earn verified credit in any courses for which end-of-course SOL tests are available.
2. Students may earn verified credits by achieving a passing score on alternative tests to the SOL assessment. Such tests may only be those approved by the Virginia Board of Education.
3. Students pursuing the Standard Diploma only, who entered the ninth grade for the first time in 2003-2004 or later, may receive up to four verified credits in science and/or history and social science by scoring within the 374-399 range after taking the relevant SOL test at least twice AND by passing a review by a panel of educators. The review panel will consider evidence related to the academic achievement of the student in the relevant course.
4. Students who earn one verified credit by achieving industry certification credentials while passing related career and technical education courses or programs. For the Standard Diploma, when the certification, license, or credential confers more than one verified credit, a second verified credit may be substituted for a science or history and social science verified credit. Students will be encouraged to re-take failed SOL tests as permitted by the Board of Education.

### Credit Requirements for Grade Classification

Grade classification is based on the number of standard units of credit accumulated and the number of semesters of high school enrollment. Students who do not advance to the next grade classification are required to repeat only those classes necessary to meet graduation requirements, not their entire schedule of classes.

### Credit Requirements for Grade Classification

Grade classification will take place annually prior to the opening of the school year. The high school principal may re-classify individual students during the school year if he/she deems that a re-classification is warranted.

### Classification Levels

Grade 8	Student must be promoted from Grade 7
Grade 9	Student must be promoted from Grade 8, passing five (5) subjects
Grade 10	Student must have five (5) credits toward graduation
Grade 11	Student must have ten (10) credits toward graduation, including English 9
Grade 12	Student must have fifteen (15) credits toward graduation, including English 9 & 10 and be scheduled to graduate in June or August

Legal Refs: Virginia Board of Education Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, amended July 28, 2000, 8 VAC 20-131-10 *et seq.*

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