

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 145

Approved March 2, 1998

RESOLVED, That the Superintendent of Schools and the Providence School Board are requested to adopt a School Promotion Policy.

IN CITY COUNCIL,

FEB 19 1998

READ AND PASSED,

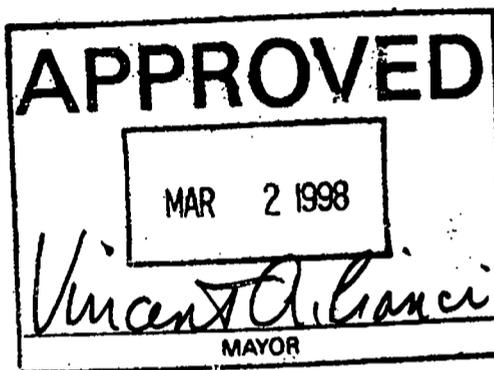
as Amended

Evelyn T. Fargnoli

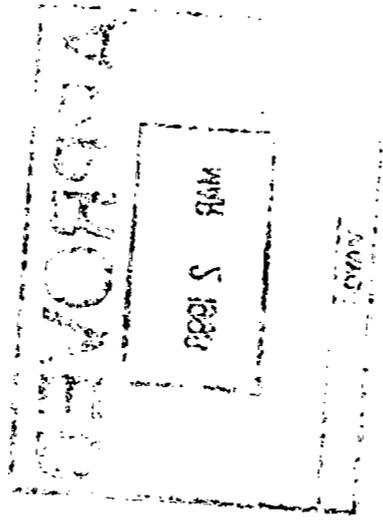
PRES.

Michael R. Clement

CLERK



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Councilman Lombardi (By request) and Councilman Jackson

**~~AMEND ADOPT THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY
AND RESCIND BOARD REPORT 96-0327-P01 (96-0828-P04)~~**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

Amend Adopt the Elementary School Promotion Policy.

PURPOSE:

Consistent with the Children First Education Plan, the purpose of this policy is to provide rules for promoting elementary students and to update and expand the Summer School Bridge Program for third, sixth, and eighth grade students. This policy also provides guidelines for promoting special education and limited-English proficient students, and it outlines intervention/remediation and parental notification procedures.

PRESENT POLICY:

The current policy, Board Report 96-0828-P04 "New Elementary School Promotion Policy," is hereby amended rescinded with the approval of this policy.

**HISTORY OF
BOARD ACTION:**

Board Report 77-212-12, July 13 1977: "Promotion Policy, K-12"
Board Report 94-0323-P01, March 23, 1994: "Elementary School Promotion Policy, Kindergarten-Grade 8"
Board Report 96-0327-P01, March 27, 1996: "Policy for Elementary School Promotion"
New Elementary School Promotion Policy (96-0828-P04)

POLICY TEXT:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY

Decisions to promote or retain elementary students should be based upon successful completion of the curriculum and performance on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Students at grades three, six, and eighth are subject to the special considerations listed below in the Summer School Bridge Program. Retention of students is not recommended or encouraged unless efforts at remediation of academic deficiencies have been unsuccessful. It is recommended that kindergarten students should not be retained.

Summer School Bridge Program. Third, sixth and eighth grade students will be promoted based on their performance on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and their grades in reading and mathematics. The following stipulations listed below must be followed considered.

- Third grade students who are more than one year below grade level in reading or mathematics on the ITBS or who receive a failing grade in either reading or mathematics will not be promoted to the fourth grade until they have successfully completed a six-week summer school bridge program. Students who do not successfully complete the summer program will be retained in grade three.
- Sixth grade students who are more than one and a half years below grade level in reading or mathematics on the ITBS or who receive a failing grade in either reading or mathematics will not be promoted to the seventh grade until they have successfully completed a six-week summer school bridge program. Students who do not successfully complete the summer program will be retained in grade six.

August 27, 1997

97-0827-P01

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 96-0828-P03:
ADOPT THE AMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the amended High School Promotion Policy.

PURPOSE: One of the goals of the *Children First* Education Plan is to ensure that all students achieve at all grades in high school. This policy is necessary to establish a uniform set of promotion criteria for high school students.

PRESENT POLICY: The Policy for Minimum Promotion Requirements for High School Students (Board Report 95-0222-RS3) is hereby rescinded with the approval of this policy.

HISTORY OF BOARD ACTION: Policy for Minimum Promotion Requirements for High School Students (Board Report 95-0222-RS3), adopted February 22, 1995.

POLICY TEXT:

HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY

9th Grade Promotion

Promotion from 9th to 10th grade requires the successful completion of ~~4.5~~ 5.0 units of credit.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, 9th grade students who fail any core course (English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies) must attend summer school and enroll in credit courses for the classes they have failed, regardless of the number of credits completed. If at the end of the summer program the student still does not have ~~4.5~~ 5.0 units of credit or has not passed the core courses, that student will not be promoted. Similarly, 9th grade students who score below 8.0 in Reading or Mathematics on the Test of Achievement and Proficiency must attend summer school and enroll in a Reading and/or Mathematics remediation program. If a student fails a core course(s) and is deficient on the Test of Achievement and Proficiency, that student must first enroll in credit course(s) for the class(es) failed and then, if time permits, enroll in a Reading and/or Mathematics remediation program.

When considering mandatory summer school for 9th grade students, attendance must be considered. Students with more than 20 days of unexcused absence, including absence caused by out of school suspensions, will be required to attend summer school. This provision will be applicable whether or not the student has the requisite number of credits necessary for promotion to the next grade.

10th Grade Promotion

Promotion from 10th to 11th grade requires the successful completion of ~~10~~ 11 units of credit.

~~Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year, 10th grade students who fail a core course(s) must attend summer school and enroll in credit course(s) for the class(es) they have failed. If at the end of the summer program the student still does not have 10 units of credit, that student will not be promoted.~~

For the ~~1996-1997~~ 1997-1998 school year, it is recommended that schools provide a voluntary and optional summer program for 10th grade students who have failed core courses.

- Eighth grade students who score below 7-6 Z.2 in reading or mathematics on the ITBS or who receive a failing grade in either reading or mathematics will not graduate nor participate in graduation exercises and related activities until they have successfully completed a seven-week summer school bridge program. Students who successfully complete the summer bridge program will graduate at the conclusion of the summer session. Students who do not successfully complete the summer program will not receive an elementary school diploma. Students who failed to successfully complete the summer bridge program who are 15 years of age or will be 15 years of age before December 1st ~~These students will be issued a Certificate of Transition and will be assigned to a designated region transition attendance center.~~ The curriculum of these centers will be designed to provide basic skills development in Reading and Mathematics and will address all other elementary school graduation requirements. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills will be administered to these students in January. Students must score 7-6 Z.2 in reading and mathematics in order to be promoted to high school. The earliest these students will be eligible for promotion to high school is their second semester at the regional transition center.

Incoming students to the Chicago Public Schools to grades: fourth, seventh and ninth, previously enrolled in other school districts, shall be tested, as appropriate for grade placement using the ITBS.

Student attendance. Students in grades 3, 6, and 8 with achievement scores below the national average for their grade level and with more than 20 days of unexcused absence including caused by out of school suspensions will be required to attend summer school.

Parents! Notification. Beginning with the first day of the school year and prior to October 1st of each school year, principals will be required to notify parents in writing of the promotion policy of the Chicago Public Schools. Copies of the policy will be made available to schools for distribution.

At the end of the fifth week, fifteenth week, twentieth week, twenty-fifth week, and thirtieth week, parents must be notified in writing if their child is receiving a failing grade in Reading or Mathematics. If the child receives a failing grade in Reading or Mathematics at the end of the twentieth week, notification must be sent to the home via certified mail. If the parent does not come in for a conference at Report Card pickup at the thirtieth week, notification must be sent to the parent via certified mail. Within five days of the receipt of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills results parents must be notified in writing if their child will be required to attend mandatory summer school.

Schools are also required to notify parents via certified mail that their student may be required to attend summer school as soon as that student has reached 10 days of unexcused absence, including absence caused by out of school suspension. The same notification must be made after 15 days of such absences. Final notification must also be given that a student will be required to attend summer school once that student has reached 20 days of such absences and has scored below the national average on the ITBS Reading and/or Mathematics tests.

Special Education Students. Students in special education programs will complete the curriculum to the maximum extent possible. In promoting and graduating these students, the school shall use the objectives and expectations that have been modified according to the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Limited-English Proficient (LEP) Students. Limited-English proficient students will complete the curriculum in their native language and/or English in accordance with the Implementation Handbook for Bilingual Education Programs in the Elementary Schools. In addition to the curriculum that all students complete, the limited-English proficient student will also complete the English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum. In making promotion and graduation decisions regarding students of a non-English language background, the school shall not consider the student's level of English proficiency. Category A and Category B students will be evaluated on performance in the native language. Category C students will be evaluated on performance in the native language and in English in accordance with exit criteria found in the Implementation Handbook for Bilingual Education Programs in the Elementary Schools. All promotion decisions will be based on the policies and procedures outlined in the Implementation Handbook for Bilingual Education Programs in the Elementary Schools. Category A and Category B students will be required to attend summer school based upon examinations given in their native language. Category C students will be required to attend summer school based upon examinations given in their native language and in English.

Eighth Grade Graduation. Eighth grade students must pass the United States and State of Illinois Constitution tests to be graduated. Limited-English-Proficient students may take the constitution tests in English or in their native language, as determined by teacher judgment.

Intervention and Remediation. When a student is in danger of not being promoted, the school will provide intervention and/or remediation. Intervention will involve using a number of alternative instructional strategies and techniques to meet the student's needs and to provide opportunities for success, with an evaluation of progress every five weeks.

Exemptions and Appeals. Requests for exemptions to this policy may be made by the principal, taking into consideration a student's past academic performance, and subject to the approval of the appropriate Region Education Officer. A decision to retain a student may also be appealed by a parent/guardian to the appropriate Region Education Officer.

EDUCATIONAL REVIEW:

A committee consisting of representatives from the Office of Schools and Regions, the Office of Policy, the Law Department, and the Chief Executive's Office reviewed and developed this policy.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

This policy has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Finance.

LEGAL REVIEW:

This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Law Department.

Approved for Consideration:

Approved:

LYNN ST. JAMES
Chief Education Officer

PAUL G. VALLAS
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:

Approved as to Legal Form: *MA*

KENNETH GOTSCH
Chief Fiscal Officer

MARILYN F. JOHNSON
Attorney

~~When considering mandatory summer school for 10th grade students in the 1997-1998 school year and beyond, attendance must be considered. Students with more than 20 days of unexcused absence, including absence caused by out of school suspensions, will be required to attend summer school. This provision will be applicable whether or not the student has the requisite number of credits necessary for promotion to the next grade.~~

11th Grade Promotion

Promotion from 11th to 12th grade requires the successful completion of ~~15~~ 17 units of credit.

Parental Notification

Beginning with the first day of the school year and prior to October 1st of each school year, principals will be required to notify parents in writing of the promotion policy of the Chicago Public Schools. Copies of the policy will be made available to schools for distribution. At the end of the fifth week, fifteenth week, twentieth week, twenty-fifth week, and thirtieth week parents must be notified in writing if their child is receiving a failing grade in any class. If the child receives a failing grade in any class at the end of the twentieth week, notification must be sent to the home via certified mail. Within five days of the receipt of the results of the Tests of Achievement and Proficiency, parents of 9th grade students must be notified in writing if their child will be required to attend mandatory summer school due to receiving a score below 8.0.

Schools are also required to notify parents via certified mail that their student may be required to attend summer school as soon as that student has reached 10 days of unexcused absence, including absence caused by out of school suspension. The same notification must be made after 15 days of such absences. Final notification must also be given that a student will be required to attend summer school once that student has reached 20 days of such absences.

Exemptions

Requests for exemptions to this policy may be made by the principal, taking into consideration a student's past academic performance, and exemptions require the approval of the appropriate Region Education Officer. A decision to retain a student may also be appealed by a parent/guardian to the Region Education Officer.

Summer School Credits

Students may receive a maximum of two units of credit during the summer session.

Special Education Section Students in special education programs will complete the curriculum to the maximum extent possible. In promoting and graduating these students, the school shall use the objectives and expectations that have been modified according to the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP).

EDUCATIONAL REVIEW:

Members of the Office of Chief Education Officer, the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, the Office of Policy, the Office of Schools and Regions, and the Department of Law reviewed this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

105 ILCS 5/34-3.3; 34-18; 34-19.5 (1996)