

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IIB, IIC, IIC-RA, JCH, JCH-RA
Responsible Office: DIVISION OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the promotion and retention of students in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

AACPS discourages the practice of retention. Preventive interventions are expected to ensure student success in the progression between grade levels.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Core Courses* – core content areas comprised of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
2. *Encore Courses* – content areas that are not part of the four core subjects which are Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. They are content areas in Family and Consumer Sciences, Fine Arts, Health, Physical Education, Technology, and World and Classical Languages.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Elementary

Decisions regarding the promotion and retention of students are the shared responsibility of the principal and parent(s)/guardian(s). Communication between the school and the home is an expectation to ensure opportunities for the sharing of information.

- a. Grade-level expectations are based on a thorough understanding of the wide range of cognitive, physical, social, and emotional developmental levels that are typical for elementary school students.
- b. In the event the school recommends retention and the parent(s)/guardian(s)

disagrees, the student shall be retained.

- c. When retention becomes a possibility, a parent(s)/guardian(s)–teacher conference shall occur as soon as a student’s significant lack of progress becomes apparent, but no later than the end of the third marking period.
- d. The final decision for promotion or retention shall be recorded on the student report card at the end of the school year.
- e. If the final decision is for retention, a plan for success including specific interventions to be implemented during the year retention occurs, must be in place and submitted to the appropriate Regional Assistant Superintendent by the end of the current school year. If possible, the plan shall be developed collaboratively between school staff and the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- f. A parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal a decision regarding promotion or retention in accordance with Policy and Regulation JCH/JCH-RA – Student Complaints Related to Policy, Regulation, or Law.

2. Middle

- a. Students in Grade 6 – to be promoted to grade 7, the student must pass three of four Core courses. If the student fails a Core course, it may not be in the same subject failed in a previous year. In addition, if a student takes fewer than four Encore courses, the student may fail no more than one Encore course. If a student takes four or more Encore courses, the student may fail no more than two Encore courses.
- b. Students in Grade 7 – to be promoted to grade 8, the student must pass three of four Core courses. If the student fails a Core course, it may not be in the same subject failed in a previous year. In addition, if a student takes fewer than four Encore courses, the student may fail no more than one Encore course. If a student takes four or more Encore courses, the student may fail no more than two Encore courses.
- c. Students in Grade 8 – to be promoted to grade 9, the student must pass three of four Core courses. If the student fails a Core course, it may not be in the same subject failed in a previous year. In addition, if a student takes fewer than four Encore courses, the student may fail no more than one Encore course. If a student takes four or more Encore courses, the student may fail no more than two Encore courses.
- d. Exceptions to these promotion/retention requirements may be granted on an individual basis by the principal with input from the student’s

parent(s)/guardian(s).

- e. A student who does not successfully complete middle school courses is strongly encouraged to attend summer school courses or alternative interventions, with the principal's approval, to earn passing grades.
 - f. A parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal a decision regarding promotion or retention in accordance with Policy and Regulation JCH/JCH-RA – Student Complaints Related to Policy, Regulation, or Law.
3. **High School**
- a. Students in Grade 9 – to be promoted to grade 10, a student must complete six credits, with three credits being in academic subjects.
 - b. Students in Grade 10 – to be promoted to grade 11, a student must complete 13 credits, with seven credits being in academic subjects.
 - c. Students in Grade 11 – to be promoted to grade 12 a student must complete 20 credits, with 11 credits being in academic subjects.
 - d. Students in Grade 12 – a student who has successfully completed a minimum of 20 credits by September 1 and who is enrolled in a program that allows the student to meet all graduation requirements by June of the same academic year may be considered a twelfth grader.
 - e. A student who does not successfully complete all courses in a grade level is strongly urged to attend summer school or attend evening high school.
4. Requirements and expectations related to the implementation of these regulations may be found in the *AACPS High School Program of Study* and the *AACPS Middle School Program of Study*.

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