

Promotion and Retention Policy

1.0 Promotion Requirements

1.1. Kindergarten Promotion

Scholars in Kindergarten must be deemed proficient in Math and Reading to be promoted to the first grade.

1.1.1 Math – To be deemed proficient, scholars must:

- Classwork - Have a classroom grade of P for Pass, S for Satisfactory, a “C”, or a score of 70 or above, where all such grades are based on Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) aligned work and assessments.
- Assessment - Be at or above grade level on a national, standardized GSE-aligned assessment (e.g., NWEA’s MAP assessment)

1.1.2 Reading – To be deemed proficient scholars must be reading at or above grade level based on:

- Teacher assessments and recommendations
- Results of a standardized GSE-aligned assessment (e.g., NWEA’s MAP assessment)

1.2 First and Second Grade Promotion

To be promoted to the next grade, scholars must be deemed proficient in Math, Reading, ELA.

1.2.1 Classwork Math, ELA, Reading - To be deemed proficient, scholars must pass Math, ELA, and Reading courses/subjects with a grade of 70 or above, where all such grades are based on Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) aligned work and assessments.

1.2.2 National Assessment - A promotion decision can be considered for a scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above but is at or above grade level on a national, standardized GSE-aligned assessment (e.g., NWEA’s MAP assessment)

1.3 Third Grade Promotion

To be promoted to the next grade, scholars must be deemed proficient in Math, Reading, ELA.

- *1.3.1 Classwork Math & ELA* – To be deemed proficient, scholars must pass Math, ELA, and Reading courses/subjects with a grade of 70 or above, where all such grades are based on Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) aligned work and assessments.

Promotion and Retention Policy

- 1.3.2 GMAS Reading - To be deemed proficient, scholars must be reading at or above grade level based on the results of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) testing, only if GMAS testing is mandated by the state.
- 1.3.3 GMAS Math & ELA – Any scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above but scores at the “Proficient” level on the Math or ELA GMAS test, will be considered proficient in that subject area. Note: The Math and ELA GMAS tests for this grade can only be taken once.

1.3.4 National Assessment - A promotion decision can be considered for a scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above but is at or above grade level on a national, standardized GSE-aligned assessment. (e.g., NWEA’s MAP assessment)

1.4 Fourth, Sixth, and Seventh Grade Promotion

To be promoted to the next grade, scholars must be deemed proficient in Math, Reading, ELA, Science, and Social Studies.

1.4.1 Classwork - To be deemed proficient, scholars must pass Math, ELA, Reading, Science, and Social Studies courses/subjects with a grade of 70 or above, where all such grades are based on Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) aligned work and assessments, AND

1.4.2 GMAS Testing – Any scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above in a Math or ELA course but scores at the “Proficient” level on the Math or ELA GMAS test, will be considered proficient in that subject area. Note: The GMAS tests for this grade can only be taken once.

1.4.3 National Assessment - A promotion decision can be considered for a scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above but is at or above grade level on a national, standardized GSE-aligned assessment. (e.g., NWEA’s MAP assessment)

1.5 Fifth and Eighth Grade Promotion

To be promoted to the next grade, scholars must be deemed proficient in Math, Reading, ELA, Science, and Social Studies.

To be deemed proficient, scholars must meet the following criteria:

- 1.5.1 Classwork - To be deemed proficient, scholars must pass Math, ELA, Reading, Science, and Social Studies courses/subjects with a grade of 70 or above, where all such grades are based on Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) aligned work and assessments, AND
- 1.5.2 GMAS Reading - To be deemed proficient, scholars must be Reading at or above grade level based on the results of Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) testing, only if GMAS testing is mandated by the state.

Promotion and Retention Policy

- 1.5.3 GMAS Math – To be deemed proficient, scholars must score at or above the Proficient Learner level in Math based on results of Georgia Milestones testing, only if GMAS testing is mandated by the state. Note: The Math GMAS may be re-taken if a scholar does not meet proficiency after the first administration.
- 1.3.3 GMAS Science and Social Studies – Any scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above in a Science or Social Studies course, but scores at the “Proficient” level on the GMAS test, will be considered proficient in that subject area. Note: The Science and Social Studies GMAS tests can only be taken once.

1.5.4 National Assessment - A promotion decision can be considered for a scholar who fails to obtain a 70 or above but is at or above grade level on a national, standardized GSE-aligned assessment. (e.g., NWEA’s MAP assessment)

2.0 Appeals

Parents may appeal any non-promotion decision to the Placement Committee. The Appeals process has the following elements:

2.1 Placement Committee - The SST Coordinator will convene a Placement Committee, including, at minimum, a parent and the teacher(s) of the subject matter of the Milestone Assessment or subject area/course for which the scholar failed to meet the passing standard (or that teacher’s lead administrator). **Note:** The IEP team is automatically a part of the Placement Committee for any scholar with an IEP.

2.2 Notification – GIA is required to notify the parent or guardian of the time and place for convening the placement committee, and GIA must receive/obtain confirmation of receipt of that notification.

2.3 Decision Options – Placement Committee may opt to do one of the following:

- Promote a scholar to the next grade – If a scholar has been retained based on policy, but is to be promoted on appeal:
 - Evidence must exist that indicates a scholar has met grade level standards (e.g., summer school course requirements; school-developed, state, or national assessments).
 - The decision to promote must be unanimous.
- Place a scholar in the next grade – If a scholar does not show evidence that they met grade level standards, a scholar may be placed if:
 - There is evidence to suggest that retaining a scholar in the same grade would be more harmful to the scholar than placing them in the next grade (e.g. scholar has been retained before)

Promotion and Retention Policy

- The Placement Committee decides there is a plan that can be put in place that will enable the scholar to meet grade level standards by the end of the subsequent academic year.
- Retain Scholar in same grade – Retaining a scholar should be the decision if:
 - Scholar has not met grade level standards.
 - It is unlikely that a plan can be put in place that will enable scholar to meet grade level standards by the end of the subsequent academic year.
 - Retention will be more beneficial to scholar than placement (e.g., academic deficits are deemed to be too great to make up in one year)

2.4 Grading

- Promotion – If, after an appeal, a scholar is **promoted** based on ultimately meeting grade level standards, the grade for the class(es) originally failed will change to a C (70).
- Placed- If, after an appeal, a scholar is **placed** in the next grade, the original grade(s) will remain unchanged.
- Retained – If, after an appeal, a scholar is **retained**, the original grade(s) will remain unchanged.

2.5 Academic Plan – Whether the scholar that is the subject of the appeal is promoted or placed on appeal, or retained, the Placement Committee must develop an instructional plan that is deemed likely to help the scholar reach, at minimum, on-grade-level performance by the end of the next school year. a plan should include:

- School-based Strategies – Strategies implemented at the school level to support academic growth and development.
- Home-based Strategies – Strategies which parents are accountable for implementing to support the school-based component of the plan.
- Student-driven strategies (for scholars in third grade and above) – Each scholar in grade three and above who is the subject of a retention appeal, should participate in setting a personal plan for improvement.
- Agreement – Signatures should be sought to confirm agreement of the plan from each member of the Placement Committee and the scholar. Note: Parents and scholars do not have to sign for the Academic Plan to be implemented.

2.6 Continued Appeals

- To the Superintendent - Families who do not agree with the decision of the Placement Committee, may appeal the decision to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will base any reversal of the Placement Committee's decision on

Promotion and Retention Policy

procedural irregularities, policy violations, or egregious errors in judgement. The Superintendent will not override the considered judgement of Placement Committee members regarding a scholar's likelihood to achieve grade level performance in the subsequent year.

- To the Board of Directors – Families who do not agree with the Superintendent's decision may appeal to the Genesis Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine whether the process up to the time of decision was aligned with policies and procedures.

2.7 Should a crisis occur (e.g., similar to the spring 2020 Co-CID-19 Pandemic), the administration reserves the right to utilize alternate criteria to make promotion and retention decisions.