

Promotion/Retention

In partnership with our students, faculty, staff, parents, and the community, Essex County Public Schools is committed to creating Pathways to Excellence by promoting a positive, student-focused culture striving for continuous improvement that meets the academic, athletic, artistic, and career-occupational needs of all our students by guiding, inspiring, celebrating, and teaching our students as we equip them to meet the challenges of a global society. Essex County Public Schools provides multiple opportunities to ensure every student masters the standards necessary for promotion to the next grade level.

Promotion and retention decisions are based on multiple factors including grades, SOL scores, growth assessment scores, intervention and remediation progress, benchmark assessment scores, social and emotional readiness, attendance, teacher recommendations, and other pertinent factors. The following processes are used by Essex County Public Schools.

Students in Grades K-6

To promote to the next grade the student must pass the majority of their classes with emphasis placed on English/language arts and mathematics. Students may be required to attend remediation services including but not limited to after-school tutoring and/or summer school.

Process:

1. Teachers communicate academic concerns with parents as early as concerns are identified. Teachers conduct parent conferences.
2. Within 20 days after the end of the first semester, teachers complete At Risk documents to identify individual students at risk of failure. An At Risk Committee meets to discuss data related to individual student's progress and interventions/remediation to be offered.
3. A letter is sent to the parents expressing concern regarding academic progress and identifying the possibility of summer school and/or retention.
4. Teachers continue to communicate academic concerns with parents. Teachers conduct parent conferences.
5. Within the last 20 days of school, the At Risk Committee meets again to discuss each student at risk of failure. All data sources are considered. Promotion/retention decisions are made.
6. Parents are notified, in writing, of all retention decisions.

Students in Grades 7-8

To promote to the next grade the student must pass 4 out of 6 classes. English/Language Arts and mathematics must be two of the classes passed. Students may participate in end-of-year celebratory activities only if they are promoted. Students may be required to attend remediation services including but not limited to after-school tutoring and/or summer school.

Process:

1. Teachers communicate academic concerns with parents as early as concerns are identified. Teachers conduct parent conferences.

2. Within 20 days after the end of the first semester, teachers complete At Risk documents to identify individual students at risk of failure. An At Risk Committee meets to discuss data related to individual student's progress and interventions/remediation to be offered.
3. A letter is sent to the parents expressing concern regarding academic progress and identifying the possibility of summer school and/or retention.
4. Teachers continue to communicate academic concerns with parents. Teachers conduct parent conferences.
5. Within the last 20 days of school, the At Risk Committee meets again to discuss each student at risk of failure. All data sources are considered. Promotion/retention decisions are made.
6. Parents are notified, in writing, of all retention decisions.

Students in Grades 9-12

To promote to the next grade the student must earn 5 credits per year, one of which must be English. In addition to passing high school courses, students must earn verified credits by passing end of course Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. All requirements of school board policy IKEB apply.

To promote from grade 9 to grade 10: Student must have acquired at least 5 high school credits, three of the credits must be core classes including English 9.

To promote from grade 10 to grade 11: Student must have acquired at least 10 high school credits, six of the credits must be core classes including English 10.

To promote from grade 11 to grade 12: Students must have acquired at least 15 high school credits, nine of the credits must be core classes including English 11.

Grade 12: Seniors must be enrolled in all of the courses needed to earn a diploma at the close of the regular school year.

Process:

1. Teachers communicate academic concerns with parents as early as concerns are identified. Teachers conduct parent and student conferences.
2. Within 20 days after the end of the first semester, teachers complete At Risk documents to identify individual students at risk of failure. Teachers meet with the At Risk Committee to discuss data related to individual student's progress and interventions/remediation offered.
3. A letter is sent to the parents expressing concern regarding academic progress and identifying the possibility course failure.
4. Teachers continue to communicate academic concerns with parents. Teachers conduct parent conferences.
5. Parents are notified, in writing, of student needs to retake a course or attend SOL remediation to retake an SOL assessment.

It is the goal of Essex County Public Schools, working in collaboration with parents and students, that every student will be carefully monitored for academic success.

Adopted: July 13, 2015