

## **PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

The Oakdale Board of Education believes the primary goal of the educational process is to educate. The board also believes that since each child develops physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially at an individual rate, not all children will complete twelve grade levels of work at the same rate. Therefore, for some children, more than twelve years of public education are necessary to achieve the minimal standards of an appropriate education.

Students in special education are excluded from this policy and will be advanced or retained in accordance with their Individual Educational Program as created by their IEP team.

Grade level placement will be based upon the child's maturity (emotional, social, mental, and physical), chronological age, school attendance, effort, and marks achieved. Standardized test results can be used as one means of judging progress. The grade marks earned by the child throughout the year shall reflect the probable assignment for the coming year. Assignment of grade marks will not be used as a means of discipline or reward under any circumstances.

Whenever a teacher or a placement committee recommends that a student be retained at the present grade level or not receive a passing grade in a course; the parent(s) or guardian, if dissatisfied with the recommendation, may appeal the decision by first applying to the superintendent and then the Board of Education. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final. The parent(s) or guardian may prepare a written statement to be placed in and become a part of the permanent record of the student stating the parent(s)'s or guardian's reason(s) for disagreeing with the decision of the Board.

A grade mark on a report card at the end of the grading period shall not fulfill the teacher's responsibility in reporting a child's progress to the child's parent(s) or guardian. Informal notes and personal conferences are necessary to help the teacher and the parent(s) or guardian understand the child's development and progress. The parent(s) or guardian shall be informed, and a conference scheduled if the parent(s) or guardian desire, when it becomes apparent that a child may need to remain at a grade level.

Upon request of the student, or the student's parent(s) or guardian, a student who has been recommended for retention, is failing a grade, or seeks advancement will be given the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS) for the applicable grade level or course.

Proficiency Based Promotion is a system which awards credit for students' knowledge in the core curriculum areas (70 O.S. 11-103.6:), i.e., social studies, language arts, the arts, languages, mathematics, and science, through an assessment process. All students in grades K-8 are eligible for Proficiency Based Promotion.

Upon request of a parent, guardian, or educator a student may be given the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in core curriculum areas.

Proficiency for advancing to the next grade level or other educational options will be demonstrated by a score of 90% or comparable performance on a battery of proficiency criterion assessments designed or designated by the district (teacher made testing) and a performance assessment or demonstration (standardized test score given by the school as group testing or by the counselor as individual testing).

Other options for accommodating student needs for advancement after having demonstrated proficiency may include, but are not limited to: individualized instruction, correspondence courses, independent study, concurrent enrollment, or cross-grading grouping.

No record of unsuccessful attempts will be maintained in the student's permanent record.

The Oakdale School System will offer proficiency testing during two weeks in the summer to enable students to make a smooth transition to a new grade and to enable them to start the year in the appropriate classes. Proficiency tests are not given at any other time. The application deadline is the third Friday of May for testing during the first week of June and the third Friday of July for testing during the second week of August. Please include your daytime phone number so you can be contacted to set a date and time for testing. Contact Susan Honeycutt at 771-3373 if you need further information.

**REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-114.1**  
**70 O.S. §11-103.6**