

EAST MILLINOCKET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL BOARD POLICY**PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS**

It is the Board's intent to provide sequential instructional programming that provides equitable opportunity for students to learn the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results at each grade level. The Board recognizes that at every grade level, there are differences among students in their intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development and that individual students may be more proficient in some content areas of the Learning Results than in others.

While most students will advance from one grade to another at the end of the academic year, some students may benefit from retention or acceleration. Decisions concerning promotion, retention, or acceleration of a student, should be consistent with the best educational interest of that student. Students may meet some standards and not others but still advance to the next level based on other criteria.

A. Criteria

The following criteria will be used in making decisions concerning promotion, retention and acceleration. Although all listed criteria may be considered in the decision-making process, because of the relationship between a student's achievement of the content standards of the system of Learning Results and his/her future success in school, more consideration shall be given to the criterion articulated in subparagraph "1" below than to any other factors.

1. Achievement of the content standards of the Learning Results, as demonstrated through classroom assessments (including but not limited to tests, projects, presentations, common assessments and standardized tests when available, etc.), and/or assessments identified by the DOE.
2. Participation and success in remedial programs, tutoring, summer school, and/or other opportunities for success;
3. Potential benefit from repetition of a grade or learning experiences;
4. Potential for success if accelerated;
5. Attendance;
6. Social and emotional maturity;
7. Health;
8. Age in relation to grade placement;
9. Program options;
10. Student attitude; and
11. Parental concerns.

B. Retention

Parents should be notified as early as possible in the event that retention is being considered. Parents will be informed of the remediation options available to students (i.e. tutoring, after-school programs, support classes, summer school etc.). Whenever possible, decisions concerning retention should be made through a conference involving parents, the student's teacher, the building principal, and, as appropriate, the guidance counselor and other professional district staff. Advancement to the next grade may be made conditional on successful remediation or demonstrated proficiency within a specified period of time.

The principal shall be responsible for making the final decision regarding retention. A parent who is dissatisfied with the principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

C. Acceleration

Decisions regarding acceleration shall be made by the principal in consultation with the student's teacher(s), the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator, and other professional staff or consultants, as appropriate. A parent who is dissatisfied with the principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

D. Early Graduation

The East Millinocket School Board believes it is highly advisable for all students to complete a normal four-year sequence for high school graduation. However, the Board also recognizes that there may be instances where certain students may have specific needs, circumstances, or issues compelling enough to warrant an alternative graduation arrangement. The East Millinocket School Board, upon the recommendation of the superintendent and Response to Intervention Team, will consider each petition for early graduation on an individual basis subject to the following guidelines:

SIX SEMESTER COMPLETION

In unusual circumstances a student may graduate upon the completion of six semesters of high school. The student must be enrolled at Schenck High School at the conclusion of the sixth and final semester.

Students requesting Early Graduation must comply with the following procedures:

1. The student and his/her parent/guardian must make a formal request for early graduation by the end of the fourth semester (sophomore year). The request must specifically state why early graduation is essential and document compelling reasons for seeking it (i.e. illness, family hardship, gifted and talented recommendation, etc).
2. The student must demonstrate how he or she can complete Schenck High School graduation requirements by the end of the sixth semester.
3. Students must have an overall "B" grade average, as well as a plan for further education or employment beyond high school.
4. The student and his or her guardian must meet with the Response to Intervention Team and present the formal request. The team, along with the principal and guidance counselor, will review the request and make a recommendation to the superintendent.
5. The student will waive the option of receiving a class rank for his or her new grade level designation unless the request is in conjunction with a G/T recommendation.

6. The superintendent will make a determination, inform the parent(s) and the student, and present findings to the East Millinocket School Board for final approval. The student and parent will be invited to the School Board meeting where final approval or denial will be considered. The School Board decision will be final.
- Substitution of required or accelerated courses via online, correspondence courses, or PLATO credit recovery will NOT be considered without compelling evidence of the need for an early graduation waiver.
 - Access to scholarship opportunities will be at the complete discretion of the East Millinocket School Board.
 - Any plan for early graduation, approved by the RTI, Superintendent of Schools, and the East Millinocket School Board will be contingent upon the student's satisfactory continued participation in and completion of Schenck High School courses and programs of study and all graduation requirements must be completed by the end of the student's sixth semester.

E. High School Grade Level Assignment

Successful completion of the requirements specified in the Board's policy IKF (Graduation Requirements) and demonstrated achievement of the content standards of the system of Learning Results (in accordance with state laws) will be met prior to receipt of a high school diploma.

However, high school grade level assignment will be based on the number of credits successfully completed prior to the beginning of the current school year.

For sophomore status, a student must have successfully completed 6 credits for junior status 12 credits and for senior status 18 credits.

F. Transfer Students

For students who transfer into the school system from another state or educational program not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the principal will determine the value of the student's prior educational experience for the purpose of grade placement or the fulfillment of credits. The principal may also direct that a test or tests be administered to help determine the student's progress toward meeting the content standards of the Learning Results for the purpose of determining an appropriate grade placement.

Legal Reference: Ch. 127 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IK – Student Achievement
IKA – Grading/Academic Assessment

Cross Reference (continued):

IKAB – Report Cards/Progress Reports

IKF – Graduation Requirements

ILA – Student Assessment/Local Assessment System

Adopted: December 12, 2006, First reading revised policy: 10.13.15, Second reading and adoption of revised policy: 11/10/15