

AMEND BOARD REPORT 01-1024-PO2
POLICY ON HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education adopt the amended policy on high school promotion.

POLICY TEXT:

Introduction

The Chicago Board of Education believes that promotion from one grade in high school to the next must indicate that students have passed a series of academically challenging courses in the core subject disciplines of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Sciences, as well as courses in other areas such as world languages, fine arts, physical education, and career education that are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards. Students who successfully earn course credits should display their understanding of and competency in course subject matter through both standardized exams and appropriate assignments and assessments developed by teachers. The Chicago Board of Education also recognizes that students must attend classes in order to achieve their highest levels of learning. Therefore, students who fail or refuse to attend their classes may not receive the course credits necessary for promotion into the next high school grade. This promotion policy requires that the city's high school students demonstrate genuine academic achievement and a commitment to learning in order to make progress toward earning their high school diplomas.

I. Definitions

- A. For purposes of this policy, a "unit of credit" is 120 hours of classroom instruction. A half unit of credit, which is 60 hours of classroom instruction, represents the credit that students can earn for successfully completing one semester of class work in a particular course.
- ~~B. Chicago Academic Standards Exams ("CASE") are systemwide examinations at the end of a semester in the following courses: English I & II, Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Earth Science, World Studies and United States History.~~
- B. For purposes of this policy, a "core course" is any course in one of the core subject disciplines of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences.
- C. A passing grade for purposes of this policy means at least a "D" average for the semester in a course.

II. Promotion Requirements

A. General Academic Requirements

~~The following promotion requirements apply to all high school students in grades nine through twelve in the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"):~~

1. Passing Core Subject Courses

~~In CPS high schools, all students must take courses in the core subject areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science. Students must pass their~~

~~courses in three of the four core subject areas during both semesters in order to gain promotion to the next grade in high school.~~

2. Credits Needed to Gain Promotion

The following guidelines regarding promotion shall apply for ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students:

a. A. Ninth Grade Promotion

To be promoted from ninth to tenth grade in a CPS high school, students must pass at least three of their four core subject courses in ~~core subject areas~~ during both semesters and must have successfully completed **a minimum of 5.0 units of credit.**

b. B. Tenth Grade Promotion

To be promoted from tenth to eleventh grade in a CPS high school, students must pass at least three of their four core subject courses in ~~core subject areas~~ during both semesters and must have successfully completed **a minimum of 11 units of credit.**

All tenth grade students must have completed at least twenty (20) hours of community service learning in order to be promoted to the eleventh grade.

~~Additionally, for the 2001-2002 school year only, students must score at least an 8.8 on the TAP in reading in order to be promoted to the eleventh grade. Students who fail to score an 8.8 or higher on the TAP examination still can be promoted by: (1) attending a special intensive summer school reading class and (2) taking and achieving an 8.8 score or higher on the TAP in reading at the end of the summer school course. This requirement will not be in effect after the 2001-2002 school year.~~

c. C. Eleventh Grade Promotion

To be promoted from eleventh to twelfth grade in a CPS high school, students ~~must pass at least three of their four courses in core subject areas during both semesters and~~ must have successfully completed **a minimum of 17 units of credit.**

B. D. Class Attendance

Students must attend their classes in order to learn and retain course subject matter. ~~Therefore~~ Consequently, students' success in earning credits towards promotion shall be determined by attendance in class as well as by performance on academic assignments. ~~Students with excessive unexcused absences from their classes shall be penalized as follows:~~ Therefore, students who have unexcused absences in 20% or more of the classes in a particular course during the period for which a unit of credit is earned shall not pass the course and shall receive no credit towards promotion.

- ~~1. Students who have unexcused absences in 10% of the classes in a particular course during the period for which a unit of credit is earned shall earn no grade higher than a B in the course.~~
- ~~2. Students who have unexcused absences in 15% of the classes in a particular course during the period for which a unit of credit is earned shall earn no grade higher than a C in the course.~~

III. Assessment of Student Work

The Chicago Board of Education believes that student work must be regularly and systematically assessed with methods that both challenge students and provide an accurate evaluation of students' success in learning course subject matter. Teachers shall regularly use a variety of criteria in assessing students' work, e.g., objective and essay tests, student portfolios, oral presentations, research assignments, homework and classwork. These assessment criteria should be appropriate to the course content and should provide students with a variety of means by which they can demonstrate their mastery of the material covered in a class.

~~The CASE examinations provide one means of assessing student learning in some core subject area courses throughout the CPS system. In courses that give CASE examinations, results on these tests shall be used in combination with other appropriate assessment methods to evaluate student academic performance for promotion. Students who fail a CASE examination shall have their final semester evaluation in the course reduced by ten (10) percent. For example, a student with an 80 % average in English who failed the CASE examination shall have his or her grade reduced to a 72% average for the semester.~~

One important method of assessing student success in learning course subject matter is final end-of-semester examinations. In classes where CASE tests are not given, teachers shall give final end-of-the-semester examinations that test students on course material covered during the semester. It is recommended as an educationally beneficial practice that final end-of-the-semester examinations for students taking the same course at a school be developed collaboratively by the course teachers working under the auspices of the department chair. Students who fail a final examination shall have their final semester evaluation in the course reduced by no less than ten (10) percent. For example, a student with a 90% average in a world languages class who fails the final semester examination shall have his or her grade reduced at least to an 81% average for the semester. Results on final end-of-semester examinations shall constitute at least 10% of students' final semester grade.

IV. Bilingual/English Language Learners

A. First and Second Year Transitional Bilingual Education Program/Transitional Program of Study Students

Students in their First and Second year in a Transitional Bilingual Education Program/Transitional Program of Instruction must complete the required promotion criteria in their home language, while completing the required English as a Second Language curriculum.

B. Third Year English Language Learners

Third year English Language Learners shall complete the same number of credits as those required of the general program students. Since these students are in transition, their classes may be in English, Sheltered English or their home language.

V. Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities are expected to master the general curriculum to the maximum extent appropriate with the use of supplementary aides and services. The Individualized Education Program ("IEP") Team determines whether a student with disabilities is expected to meet the Chicago Public Schools promotion criteria or another criteria, which must be documented in the student's IEP.

VI. Parental Notification

Beginning with the first day of the school year and prior to October 31st of each school year, principals must notify parents in writing of the promotion policy of the Chicago Public Schools. Copies of the policy will be made available to schools for distribution. At the end of the fifth week, fifteenth week, twenty-fifth week, and thirty-fifth weeks, parents must be notified in writing if their child(ren) is receiving a failing grade in any class. Schools shall mail the failure notifications to parents at the last address given as the family residence. Copies of failure notifications must be maintained at the schools.

VII. Exemptions

Requests for exemptions to this policy must be made by the principal to the Chief Education Officer. Decisions on exemption requests shall be made on a case-by-case basis with the Chief Education Officer or designee taking into consideration such factors as:

- (1)A. ~~health~~ Health issues regarding the student;
- (2)B. ~~issues~~ Issues related to a student's family;
- (3)C. a A student's prior academic history and effort; and,
- (4)D. ~~other~~ Other extenuating circumstances.

A decision to retain a student may be appealed by a parent/guardian to the ~~Region~~ Area Instruction ~~Education~~ Officer.

VIII. Summer School Credit

Students may receive a maximum of two units of credit during the summer session.

IX. Effective Date of Policy

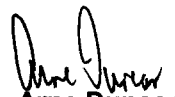
~~This policy becomes effective at the start of the second semester of the 2001-2002 school year. For the 2001-2002 school year, the policy applies only to 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students, and not to 12th graders.~~

Approved for Consideration:




Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted,



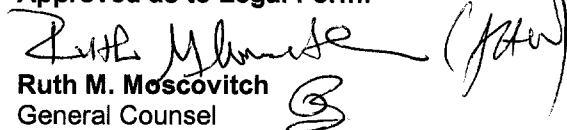
Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:



John Maiorca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:



Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel