

Student Accountability

Board Policy: SA-13
Adopted: May 12, 1997
Revised: June 8, 2009

I. General Policy Statement

The Haywood County Board of Education heartily endorses the North Carolina ABC's Plan, which calls for school and teacher accountability, teaching the basics of reading, math, and writing, and local control at the individual school site. Controls are in place to assure that staff and administrators are accountable for student learning.

The Haywood County Board of Education recognizes the roles that students and parents play in educational achievement. The Board is committed to promoting standards of excellence. Board members expect quality work from all students in the Haywood County School System and expect students to learn well those things they need to know and be able to do. Today's student must assume responsibility for her/his learning by meeting minimum promotion standards (Policy SA-11), minimum attendance requirements (Policy A-5), and test standards necessary to be eligible for promotion or high school course credit.

II. Test Standards

A. Students in grades 3-8 must achieve at or above Achievement Level III on the North Carolina mandated End-of-Grade tests in Reading and Mathematics to be eligible for promotion. All students who score Achievement Level II on the first administration of the end-of-grade reading or mathematics assessments and/or their alternate assessment shall be administrated Retest 1. Parents of students who score Achievement Level I must be notified that they may request that their children be administrated Retest 1. The higher of the original or Retest 1 scores will be used for calculating ABC Performance Composites, AYP results and to make promotion decisions.

B. Students in grades 9-12 must take North Carolina End-of-Course tests in all courses for which End-of-Course tests are available and achieve at or above Achievement Level III to be eligible for course credit. All students who score Achievement Level II on the first administration of the end-of-course assessments and/or their alternate assessment shall be administrated Retest 1. Parents of students who score Achievement Level I must be notified that they may request that their children be administrated Retest 1. The higher of the original or Retest 1 scores will be used for calculating ABC Performance Composites, and AYP results (where applicable).

End-of-Course tests serve as the final exam grade for all courses for which End-of-Course tests are available. Students must achieve at or above Level III on End-of-Course tests to receive a passing score on the final exam. [During the school year in which a new EOC Test is administered, exam grades for that year will be established by state standards not local standards. After the first year of the new EOC administration, local cut scores for exam grades will be established in accordance with the above guidelines.] End-of-Course test scores for the courses in which students are enrolled shall count twenty-five percent (25%) of a student's final grade except for English 10 (See Policy C-4). If the student does not meet the passing criteria for EOC Tests but is passing the course, the student is eligible for retest/remediation options described in III. C. of this policy.

III. Students Not Meeting the Standards

- A. Each school shall develop an intervention/prevention remediation program and a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for students not meeting standards and shall evaluate both at the end of each grading period.
- B. Students not taking High School End of Course test(s) for courses in which they are currently enrolled will not receive credit. Students must re-enroll and meet all course requirements to receive credit and be eligible to enroll in the next course of the content area.
- C. The school will confer with parent(s)/guardian(s) of those students who do not meet the test standards following the receipt of the test results to discuss the utilization of one or more of the following options:

Grades 3-8

- Retest without remediation
- Retest with remediation
- Summer school
- Non-promotion
- Other remedial options

Grades 9-12

- Retest without remediation
- Retest with remediation
- Course repetition
- Summer school
- After-school remediation
- Other remedial options

- D. Students will not be charged for remediation options during the regular school year. Students who attend academic summer school will not be charged tuition, but must provide their own transportation.

IV. Waivers from State and Local Test Standards

State and local accountability standards (Gateways) will be adhered to in decisions concerning promotion and graduation. A waiver grants permission for the promotion or graduation of a student who has not met requirements. The parents/guardians and the student must be notified of failure to meet standards.

A. Grades 3-8

A waiver may be considered by a principal for students who have NOT met the promotion standards (Policy SA-11) or the attendance standards (Policy A-5) when:

1. The student has participated in one of the remedial options in Section III and retested; or
2. A school promotion committee recommends a placement decision to the principal; or
3. Recommendations from the system-wide review committee based on state and local guidelines.

B. Grades 9-12

A waiver may be considered by a principal for students who have NOT met the course standards (Policy SA-11) or the attendance standards (Policy A-5) when:

1. The student has repeated the course and retested; or
2. A school-promotion committee recommends a decision to waive the Board's End-of Course test standard to the principal.

C. Exceptional Children's Program

Waiver decisions involving exceptional students shall include the School Individual Education Plan (IEP) Team. A statement signed by the principal and the parent/guardian or student (students who sign must be 18 or older) is required for any waiver of any standard at any grade level. All testing modifications and promotion decisions shall be consistent with the guidelines established by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

V. Exit Documents

1. ***Merit Diploma*** – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements, whose rank is in the top ten percent of the graduating class and have a score on the SAT which is at least ten points higher than the “national average” for the previous year.
2. ***Regular Diploma*** – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements, or for whom waiver(s) have been granted.
3. ***Certificate of Achievement*** – Granted to students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements but fail the competency test(s) or who do not achieve proficiency level on an exit exam.
4. ***Graduate Certificate*** – Granted to exceptional students identified by G.S. 115C-109, and other students who do not meet all the North Carolina and Haywood County requirements for a high school diploma. Students must successfully complete 20 course units and all IEP requirements.