

The School District of Neillsville is charged with the adequate education of every student, insuring the development of an independent and functioning contributor in society.

As per Wisconsin Statute 118.125, the school has the right and responsibility of promotion and retention.

Therefore, the School District of Neillsville shall primarily support a professional staff member's advice who, in good faith, has indicated that a student has not met the criteria to gain necessary independence and acceptable educational development.

The School District of Neillsville bases the promotion of each student on a combination of social and academic achievement criteria. A professional staff member and/or a committee considers the promotion of each student, carefully evaluating subjective and objective factors, determining each student's progress.

If in the course of any student's progress, it is deemed necessary to retain a student in a subject or grade level, the School District of Neillsville will support the position stated in each handbook.

GRADE ADVANCEMENT

1. LOCAL REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO WISCONSIN SECTION 118.33:
Effective September 2002, in order to advance from Grade 4 to 5 or from Grade 8 to 9 students in the School District of Neillsville shall meet the requirements included in section 118.33 of the state statutes, as revised by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9.

In addition to meeting any local requirements outlined above, in order to advance a student shall demonstrate proficiency by earning at least eight points from these categories:

- A. State and Federal Mandated Tests
- B. Academic Performance
- C. Other Academic Criteria

These are not to be construed as sequential in nature, but carrying equal weight.

- A. State and Federal Mandated Tests

A student may earn one point for each tested area in which his/her performance is at or above basic.

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Final Adoption: 11/16/15

B. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

A student may earn one point for a grade of C or above in each of the following subjects: mathematics, science, social studies, reading or language arts.

C. OTHER ACADEMIC CRITERIA

1. A student may receive one point by documented demonstration of proficiency (through a district-approved project, portfolio, or other performance) in any area of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Documentation will include the professional staff member's signature indicating the student has provided evidence of proficiency in meeting the standards.
2. A student may earn 1 to 4 points by the satisfactory completion of a district-approved standards-based intervention program.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

For a student who does not demonstrate proficient performance through earning at least 8 points as outlined above, decisions concerning grade advancement will be made through committee review. A committee consisting of, at minimum, professional staff, including a professional staff member currently working closely with the student; the school counselor; a principal; and a parent or guardian will make a recommendation based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:

- ❖ overall academic performance
- ❖ performance on other tests
- ❖ any previous retentions
- ❖ performance in subject areas beyond mathematics, science, social studies, and reading or language arts
- ❖ reports from outside agencies
- ❖ other developmental criteria, such as those in Light's Retention Scale

Considering the committee's recommendation, the principal will make a decision on advancement. This decision shall be final.

2. PROCEDURES

Accommodations to these requirements may be made for students with exceptional educational interests, needs or requirements consistent with state law and established district policies and procedures.

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PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

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The district administrator (or his/her designee) shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the advancement of students under this policy.

The district administrator (or his/her designee) shall develop, review and recommend policies so that the schools of the district can help prepare students to satisfy the criteria in this policy and to otherwise implement this policy.

The district administrator (or his/her designee) shall develop practices and procedures to inform students and parents/guardians of the policy requirements and to inform students and parents/guardians of the academic progress of students.

Legal Reference: WI Statutes: 118.125

Cross Reference: High School/Middle School Student Handbook

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