

Transylvania County students shall meet local Board of Education promotion (Policy IKE), attendance (Policy JE-R), and test standards to be eligible for promotion or secondary course credit.

Test Standards

Students in grades 3-8 must achieve at or above a Level III on the North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests in reading, mathematics, fifth and eighth grade science, and/or their alternate assessment (for special education or Limited English Proficient students) to be eligible for promotion.

Students must achieve at or above a Level III on the North Carolina End-of-Course Tests to be eligible for course credit. The highest grade on an End-of-Course (EOC) test shall count as twenty-five percent (25%) of a student’s final grade in each high school course.

Diploma Standards

To receive a North Carolina high school diploma, all students must:

- Meet all existing local and state graduation requirements;
- Achieve a passing score on the North Carolina Competency Test (Class of 2009);
- Achieve a passing score on both parts of the computer skills test (Class of 2009), and a Level III required for the Online Computer Skills Test for the Class of 2010 and beyond;
- Achieve at or above a Level III on the tenth grade North Carolina writing test;
- Complete a North Carolina Graduation Project during English IV; and
- Meet Exit Standards for the Class of 2010 and beyond.

Opportunities for Students Not Meeting the Standard

The teacher shall confer with the parent/guardian of students not meeting test standards. Parental contact shall be initiated within two (2) working days of the teacher's receipt of test results. The teacher shall discuss (via telephone or in person) with the parent/guardian the following options:

Grades 3-8	Grades 9-12
Retest with remediation (10 hours per subject test)	Retest with remediation (minimum of 5 hours and maximum of 10 hours per subject test depending on individual student’s needs)
Waiver Review Committee to recommend grade retention, additional remediation and retesting, or promotion	Waiver Review Committee to recommend course credit or failure for students scoring within one Standard Error of Measure on the first test or first retest
	Second retest with remediation (10 hours per subject test). Waiver Review Committee to recommend course credit or failure.

Students participating in the above remedial option(s) shall be given the opportunity to retest on the designated retest day(s). At least ten (10) hours of remedial instruction shall be provided before End-of-Grade retesting. A minimum of five (5) hours and a maximum of ten (10) hours of remedial instruction shall be provided before the first End-of-Course retest. A minimum of ten (10) additional hours of remedial instruction shall be provided before the second End-of-Course retest.

Students who do not score at least a Level II on an End-of-Grade or End-of-Course test are not required to participate in retesting, but their parents may request in writing to continue with retesting in order to meet the promotion or course credit standard. The parent of a student who scores a Level II, but whose class average is too low to eventually pass the course, may request in writing to waive the remediation requirement; however, the student is still required to take the retest.

Transylvania County Schools shall not charge a fee for summer school or other summer remediation.

Each school shall develop and annually evaluate/modify a "safety nets" plan for supporting student success. By the end of the first school month, each school must submit this plan to the Board. At a minimum, the school-wide safety nets will include plans for academic coaching and regular communication with parents.

Each student not on grade level or not making adequate progress toward graduation shall have a Personalized Education Plan developed cooperatively by the student, parent, and teachers(s). Each Personalized Education Plan shall include intervention and monitoring strategies. Students not meeting the testing standard on End-of-Grade exams will have a Personalized Education Plan developed during the first month of the next school year.

Waivers from End-of-Grade Testing Standard(s)

Students in grades 3-8 who not score at or above a Level III on an End-of-Grade test in reading, math or science may be considered for a waiver from this policy under certain circumstances. A waiver review committee shall be established in each school to determine if the student has attained competency of the grade level material even though the test score is below Level III.

Waiver Review Committee for End-of-Grade Tests (Reading, Math and Science)

The Waiver Review Committee for grades 3-8 will consist of a central office administrator, a principal of a different school, and a teacher within the school other than the student's classroom teacher. The student's classroom teacher, the parent(s), an advocate approved by the parent(s), and the school principal may be present at the committee review to speak for the student and demonstrate evidence of the student's competency in the grade level material. Students with

disabilities and Limited English Proficient students being considered for a waiver shall have teachers with expertise in these areas attend and present information to the review committees.

A committee review shall be initiated once the student has completed the first retest. The student's parent(s) may initiate a review by a written request to the EOG teacher or principal.

In order to be considered for a committee review, a student must meet promotion (Policy IKE) and attendance (Policy JE-R) standards.

The review committee will consider, at a minimum, the following information: formal test and achievement data other than the state test, teacher tests and quizzes, projects and other performance products, attendance, participation in regular academic coaching, participation in remediation prior to retesting, and any additional information that verifies that a student is at grade level; or for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, evidence that the student is making adequate progress to meet grade level requirements at the next grade level.

The review committee will make a recommendation to the principal regarding promotion to the next grade level. The committee could recommend additional remediation, retesting, or promotion for students not scoring at or above a Level III. The principal has the final decision in the promotion or retention of the student.

A statement signed by the principal, the parent/guardian, and the student is required for the waiver from the test standard for promotion.

High School Diploma Standards

High school students who do not receive a passing score on the competency test (Class of 2009), the writing test, and/or the computer skills test will be given the opportunity to retest within a reasonable time from receipt of the test results after focused remediation.

Waivers From End-of-Course Testing Standard(s)

Students in grades 9-12 who do not score at or above a Level III on an End-of-Course test may be considered for a waiver from this policy under certain circumstances. A waiver review committee shall be established in each school to determine if the student has attained competency of the course material and met the state's exit standard for the course even though the test score is below Level III.

Waiver Review Committee for End-of-Course Tests

The Waiver Review Committee for EOC courses will consist of a central office administrator, a principal of a different school, and a teacher within the school other than the teacher of the course in question. The student's classroom teacher, the parent(s), an advocate approved the parent(s), and the school principal may be present at the committee review to speak for the

student and demonstrate evidence of the student's competency in the course material. Students with disabilities and Limited English Proficient students being considered for a waiver shall have teachers with expertise in these areas attend and present information to the review committees.

A committee review shall be initiated when or if one of the following conditions has been met:

1. After the first retest, the student scores within one Standard Error of Measure of a Level III on either the initial test or the first retest; or
2. After the second retest if the student has not scored within one Standard Error of Measure of a Level III on any test administration.

The student's parent(s) may initiate a review by a written request to the EOC teacher or principal.

In order to be considered for a committee review, a student must have a passing average in the course once the highest of any test or retest score is counted as 25% of the overall grade. Also, the student must meet promotion (Policy IKE) and attendance (Policy JE-R) standards.

The review committee will consider, at a minimum, the following information: formal test and achievement data other than the state test, teacher tests and quizzes, projects and other performance products, attendance, participation in regular academic coaching, and participation in remediation prior to retesting.

The review committee will make a recommendation to the principal regarding the course credit. The principal has the final decision in granting the course credit, requiring other remedial options, or requiring the student to repeat the course.

A student who receives course credit is deemed to have met the state's exit standard requirement in that course for graduation.

A statement signed by the principal, the parent/guardian, and the student is required for the waiver of any standard for any course.

Testing Accommodations

Accommodations to the testing procedures shall be consistent for every test administration. These accommodations and modifications shall comply with the guidelines established by the State Department of Public Instruction.

Student Accountability Standards for Students with Disabilities

The Board believes that students with disabilities can achieve at the same levels as students without disabilities. To the extent possible, students with disabilities will be held to the same standards as all other students. All intervention and other opportunities, benefits, and resources

that are made available to students without disabilities shall be made available to students with disabilities who participate in the student promotion standards. Such opportunities will be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

Student Accountability Standards for Students with Limited English Proficiency

The Board believes that a student with limited English proficiency can achieve at the same levels as other students. To the extent possible, students with limited English proficiency will be held to the same standards as all other students. All intervention and other opportunities, benefits, and resources that are made available to other students shall be made available to students with limited English proficiency who participate in the student promotion standards.

Exit Documents

1. Merit Diploma – Students completing all graduation requirements who have not received a waiver from the Student Accountability for Academic Achievement Policy.
2. Diploma – Students completing all graduation requirements, but who have received a waiver from one or more test standard(s) under the Student Accountability for Academic Achievement Policy.
3. Certificate of Achievement – Students who satisfy all state and local graduation requirements, but who fail the competency test(s) (Class of 2009) or the Online Computer Skills Test (Class of 2010 and beyond).
4. Graduation Certificate – Exceptional students as identified by G.S. 115C-109 who do not meet the requirements for a high school diploma.

Staff, students, parents, and the community shall be informed of this policy.

Reference: Title 16, North Carolina Administrative Code .0103 (Graduation Requirements)

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