

PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

Background

The following procedure establishes academic and behavioral standards in order to determine eligibility of 8th grade students to participate in promotion ceremonies and activities.

Procedure

1. School staff shall be responsible for developing promotion activities for 8th grade students. The activities may reflect input by parents/guardians, staff, and students. The activities shall be subject to the approval of the principal.
2. The date for the promotion ceremony shall be subject to approval by the Superintendent or designee.
3. The promotion ceremony may be scheduled during the last school day or the two preceding days.
4. Invocations, benedictions, and/or baccalaureate services shall not be included in these activities.
5. District standards for participation in student promotion activities shall be:
 - a. The student must achieve and maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 for the first and second trimester and the first six weeks of the third trimester of the 8th grade year. This cumulative GPA must be maintained and will be computed in the following areas in order for a student to be eligible:
 - (1) Scholarship cumulative GPA of 2.00
 - (2) Citizenship cumulative GPA of 2.00
 - (3) Effort cumulative GPA of 2.00
 - b. The cumulative GPA shall be obtained from the district-approved report cards for the first two trimesters and the third trimester progress report of the 8th grade year.
 - c. If the student does not meet any one or more of the minimum requirements, the parent/guardian will be notified after each report card by site administration. The notification will inform the parent/guardian of the student's scholarship, citizenship, and effort GPA's, and make clear the consequences if improvement is not made.

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- d. Any student transferring into a district school from another school (inter/intra) shall transfer his/her scholarship/citizenship/effort with him/her and will be required to meet the minimum district promotion standards.
 - e. Any student with more than two incidents of out-of-school suspension during his/her 8th grade year will not be eligible to participate in promotion activities.
6. Parents/guardians of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will receive notification from the Site Administrators of district standards and eligibility requirements.
7. District standards for participation in student promotion ceremonies shall be:
- a. The student must achieve and maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.00 for the first and second trimester and the first six weeks of the third trimester of the 8th grade year. This cumulative GPA must be maintained and will be computed in the following areas in order for a student to be eligible:
 - (1) Scholarship cumulative GPA of 2.00
 - (2) Citizenship cumulative GPA of 2.00
 - (3) Effort cumulative GPA of 2.00
8. Appeal Process for Promotion Ceremony and/or Promotion Activities:
- a. There will be an opportunity to appeal in the event an 8th grade student is denied the privilege to participate in the promotion ceremony or promotion activities. The parents/guardians must be involved in the following steps when deciding whether to appeal the district's policy.
 - (1) District Committee Appeal
The committee shall be composed of an administrator and an 8th grade teacher from the student's site (the teacher should be one that has a relationship with the student and can add information that may be a factor in the decision), as well as, an administrator, a junior high teacher, and a support staff member from other school sites. The formal appeal request form (Exhibit 5127) must be received by the district designated deadline. No late forms will be accepted.

The District Appeal Committee will meet with the student and at least one parent/guardian. Following the Appeal meeting, the committee will deliberate without the student or student's parent/guardian present and reach a decision. After the deliberation, the District Committee Appeal decision will be communicated to the parent by phone or in person. The

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notification will be made by the site administrator seated on the panel on behalf of the appealing student. The notification will also include the required procedures for the parent to appeal to the next level if they wish to do so. This meeting will be held at with the Principal.

(2) Appeal to the Director of Pupil Services

If an appeal is denied by the district committee, the next level at which an appeal may be made is to the Director of Pupil Services. The Director will hear this appeal only if the student has requested and appealed at the district committee level and his/her appeal is denied. The appeal to the Director shall be made in writing within three school days of the district committee decision. The Director shall render his/her decision within five working days of receipt of the written request

(3) Appeal to the Governing Board

If the Director denies the parent/guardian's appeal, the parent/guardian may take the appeal to the Governing Board. The Board will hear the parent/guardian's appeal if the student has appealed to both levels and the appeals were denied. The Board shall decide how the appeal at its level will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The criteria that are used will be based on the standards outlined in the Board policy and administrative regulations. The appeal to the Board must be initiated immediately following the prior appeals.

- b. Minimum requirements shall be initiated in the 2012-13 school year.

Regulation

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SANTEE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Santee, California