



# **Ending Social Promotion in Grades 4 and 6:**

## **Overview of Policy Proposal**

October 2009

# OUR PROPOSAL: IMPLEMENT A MORE RIGOROUS PROMOTION POLICY IN GRADES 4 AND 6

Because too many students are entering grades 5 and 7 below the level of skills and knowledge they need to prosper...

Because all of our students deserve a fair chance at success...

We propose stopping the pattern of moving students ahead when they are unprepared to succeed in the next grade level.

We will help our students to develop the skills and knowledge they need to enter the next grade level ready to succeed. We are committed to providing all of our students with the foundation they need to succeed in middle school, graduate from high school, and thrive in college and careers.

**This proposal builds on what we learned by ending social promotion in NYC elementary and middle schools over the past five years.**

3rd

2004

5th

2005

7th

2006

8th

2008

# GRADE 4 AND 6 PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

- Starting in the 2009-10 school year, fourth and sixth grade students would be promoted if they meet the following requirements:
  - > Scoring at Level 2 (basic) or above on Math and ELA assessments
- Students who do not meet these requirements during the school year may:
  - > Appeal a promotion decision based on a standardized rubric
  - > Attend summer school and retake tests or failed courses

# WE WILL WORK WITH FAMILIES AND STUDENTS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH EARLY NOTICE AND SUPPORT

- Communicate with families early in the school year to ensure they are aware of promotion standards and can support their children in meeting those standards
- Provide early notification to students and families for students at risk of not meeting promotion standards
- Provide additional academic resources to schools to support these students in meeting promotion standards

# HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

We will make sure that schools have the tools they need to help fourth and sixth grade students, especially those who are struggling, to meet and exceed promotion standards.

- **Guidance counselors** and school administrators will make sure that students and their families are aware of the promotion standards and of the supports available to help them succeed. The newly launched Guidance Portal includes a promotion policy toolkit to support schools in understanding promotion standards.
- **Inquiry Teams** are made up of teams of teachers within a school, and focus on a small group of students, paying close attention to those who are struggling while supporting the learning of all students. They focus on improving student outcomes using a systemic, data-informed approach designed to strengthen rigorous, research-based instructional strategies.
- **Periodic assessments** provide schools with up-to-date information about what each student knows and can do so that teachers can target instruction to the learning needs of every child. Periodic assessments can predict students' performance on NY State Tests so that teachers can help students meet or exceed promotion standards.
- **Achievement Reporting and Innovation System (ARIS)** provides detailed information about student performance and progress. It helps teachers and principals identify and address students' strengths and weaknesses and create tailored plans to help students. *ARIS Parent Link* helps families to be informed of their children's progress.
- **Accountability Tools** provide incentives for school improvement. All schools receive Progress Reports based on academic achievement and progress, and survey results from parents, students, and teachers. Schools earn extra credit for helping the lowest-performing students make gains. The Learning Environment Survey and Quality Review provide valuable information to schools, students, and families.

# PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

**The Panel for Education Policy will vote on this proposal on November 12, 2009.** Before then, we invite feedback from community members, families, school-based staff, and other New Yorkers.

The complete text of the proposed revisions to Chancellor's Regulation A-501 can be viewed at the Panel for Education Policy's website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/default.htm>

To share your feedback, you can:

- e-mail [promotionpolicy@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:promotionpolicy@schools.nyc.gov)
- call (212) 374 – 6104
- attend your next Community Education Council (CEC) meeting