



FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION Office of Student Achievement

205 LaFayette Avenue
Building B
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214-0879
Phone: 770-460-3990 ext. 132
Fax: 770-460-3928

Terry O. Oatts, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Terri Harrington
Administrative Assistant

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to inform you of a recent policy waiver by the State Board of Education that impacts our elementary and middle schools' protocol for making determinations of promotion, placement or retention of students. As you may know, state law currently requires students in third, fifth and eighth grades to pass specific portions of our state assessment in order to be promoted to the fourth, sixth and ninth grades. Effective the 2014-15 school year, the state has developed a new assessment system, known as the Georgia Milestones, which will be administered this spring. In light of the new assessment system that will be initially administered to students in grades 3-12 this spring, the State Board of Education voted to waive the requirement that students in grades third, fifth and eighth grades must pass the state assessment in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

As the State Board of Education has waived this provision for the 2014-15 school year, it is important to understand that Fayette County Schools has formal criteria beyond students' mere performance on the state assessment for determining whether or not a student in grades K-8 is promoted, placed or retained. These criteria are in the form of a rubric for grades K-8 and are used by each of our elementary and middle schools with students who may be at risk for retention. Please know that Fayette County Schools is obligated by its own board of education policy to apply its local criteria in making decisions regarding a K-8 student's promotion, placement or retention.

While my correspondence is intended to generally inform you – our parents – of the State Board of Education's temporary policy waiver as well as reference our local criteria for promotion, placement or retention, please know that if your child(ren) is/are at risk for retention, you would be directly notified by your child's school and afforded an opportunity to schedule a conference to review and discuss the criteria and the school's decision-making regarding your child. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school if you have questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,

Terry O. Oatts

"Where Excellence Counts"