

Resolution Regarding Elementary School Promotion Requirements

Current Elementary School Promotion Policy

Requires that 3rd, 6th and 8th grade students attend summer school (Summer Bridge) for one or a combination of the following factors:

- Scoring below the 24th percentile in reading and/or math on the ISAT
- Receiving a final grade of a D or F in reading or math
- Having more than 9 unexcused absences during the regular school year

It also specifies that overage elementary school students (students who will be 15 years old or older on or before September 1st of the following school year) be referred to an Achievement Academy program or other appropriate placement as a transition to high school.

Resolution Recommendation 1:

Beginning with elementary promotion determinations at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, benchmark grade students who do not meet the attendance requirement of the Elementary School Promotion Policy will not be required to attend the Summer Bridge Program.

Resolution Recommendation 2:

Beginning at the end of the 2011-12 school year, overage elementary school students will be referred to the newly established Summer Acceleration which replaces Achievement Academies as the District's program for transitioning over aged elementary students to high school.

Summer Bridge Program:

- Summer Bridge intended to provide intense academic, not attendance, interventions for students that are not making academic progress.
- ISAT and grades data show that attendance-only students perform better than their peers who are required to attend Summer Bridge and are on par with their peers who are promoted at the end of the regular school year.

Achievement Academy Program Model:

- Achievement Academies are two-year programs, co-located in 7 neighborhood high schools. Curriculum intended to bridge elementary school learning gaps and prepare students to enter 11th grade.
- Outcomes for Achievement Academy students significantly lags that of their peers who were promoted to high school on time
- Research points to acceleration rather than remediation for sustained long term gains

Summer Acceleration:

Students will attend a 4-week intensive acceleration program and enter high school as 9th graders in the fall. Focus areas include:

- **Academic:** foundational skills in literacy, mathematics
- **Social Emotional:** behaviors, beliefs, attitudes for success
- **Orientation to High School:** making HS connections, college & career planning

Beyond the Summer:

Critical to ensure we continue to identify and support students with highest needs throughout the school year. Focus on:

- **Academic/Attendance:** working with Network Chiefs, principals to ensure appropriate supports and interventions are in place for fall.
- **Social Emotional:** targeting resources to schools with high numbers of students entering high school via Summer Acceleration