



Michigan Online School

Promotion-Retention Policy

Michigan Online School believes that the promotion of students from one grade to another should be based on the student's ability, engagement, achievement, and attendance. Michigan Online School recognizes that social promotion and grade retention are not necessarily successful in remediating student academic weaknesses without supplemental supports to address areas of academic weakness. The retention of any student will be based on a thorough review of the individual case with the final decision resting with the Superintendent or designee. Administration of the Michigan Online School's promotion policy shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent. This policy is in accordance with the sections of the *Revised School Code* that are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.10, 380.11a, 380.1280b, and 380.1282.

6-8 Promotion

Students will be promoted to the next grade if they meet the following criteria:

- 90% course completion in language arts, mathematics, science and history
- Passing grades in language arts, mathematics, science, and history
- Appropriate social, emotional, and physical well-being and adjustment

If students do not meet the above criteria, they may take End of Course exams to show mastery of content. Students showing mastery (80% or better) of content on End of Course exams may be promoted. Students who do not pass End of Course exams with mastery (80% or better), will be retained.

6-8 Retention

Students who do not meet the criteria for promotion shall be retained.

Parental Notification and Intervention

Parents of students at risk of not being automatically promoted shall be notified as soon as possible and shall be requested to meet with appropriate school officials to discuss and implement appropriate mitigation strategies.

Michigan Online School will use a comprehensive process of review when a student is at risk of retention. Building level teams who have concerns regarding students at risk of not being automatically promoted, will compile the following documentation to assist in making an informed decision regarding appropriate placement for the student:

- Retention/Promotion Forms
- Student Progress Snapshot
- Student data
- Samples of writing

- Attendance records

Upon review of the assembled data, the Michigan Online School team may prescribe intervention measures to assist in avoiding retention.

High School Promotion

Promotion at Michigan Online School's High School is based upon credits earned by the individual students. At each grade level there are specific courses, or categories of courses that students are required to take. Depending on each student's Graduation Plan and post high school goals, the student will be expected to master the total credits needed for graduation.

Promotion of Students with Disabilities

The criteria used to determine promotion shall apply to students with disabilities unless the Individual Education Plan (IEP) contains modification to the designated requirement and other educational criteria are used to determine placement.

Promotion for English to Speakers of Other Languages

Limited English Proficient (LEP) middle and high school students receiving English Language instruction must meet Michigan Online School's promotion standards. Retention decisions must be based on multiple measures, not only assessments in English. The LEP student's English language proficiency must be considered when recommendation for retention is made in order to ensure that the proposed retention is not due to the student's limited English proficiency

The Appeal Process

The Michigan Online School Promotion and Retention Policy contain guidelines that standardize promotion and retention decisions. Appeals can be made when parents request promotion that is contrary to the Michigan Online School policy.

Parents may make a written appeal of the promotion decision to the Principal no later than ten business days after the last day of school. The Principal and the Superintendent will review documentation and make a decision regarding the appeal. The parent will be notified of the decision by the Principal.

The parent can appeal the decision to the Michigan Online School Board of Directors. The Board will review all relevant documents; hear from the Superintendent, school team and parent. The Michigan Online School Board of Directors will review relevant facts and rule on parent's appeal of retention.