

NINER UNIVERSITY ELEMENTARY STUDENT PROMOTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

I. Purpose

Niner University Elementary (“NUE”) believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level. To the extent reasonably possible, students should be given as much time or as little time as they need to be proficient at a particular level of study. Students will be promoted to the next level of study as described in this Policy.

II. Student Promotion Standards

The principal shall develop promotion standards and a process to be used in determining a student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study. The standards will be based, in part, upon proficiency in reading. The standards and process must provide multiple criteria for assessing a student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study, such as standardized test scores, formative and diagnostic assessments, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student’s work, and, when appropriate, accepted standards for assessing developmental growth. The standards and process will incorporate all applicable state law and State Board of Education policy requirements, including those for the assessment and promotion of third grade students as described in N.C.G.S. 115C-83.6, *et seq.*, and State Board of Education Policies KNEC-002 and -003.

The principal shall ensure that the promotion standards are used by teachers and school administrators in assessing each student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study. The principal has the authority to promote or retain students based upon the NUE standards and any applicable standards set by the State Board of Education.

To reduce the number of students who do not meet promotion standards, school administrators and teachers will address the needs of students who are not making adequate academic progress in accordance with NUE policy.

III. Appeals of Promotion Decisions

Within five workdays of receiving the principal’s written decision to promote or retain a student, the student’s parents may appeal the decision to the Dean of the College of Education (“Dean”). The Dean may overturn the principal’s decision only upon a finding that the principal’s decision was arbitrary and capricious (i.e., without a rational basis) or was otherwise an abuse of discretion.

The Dean must render a decision within 10 workdays of receiving the appeal. The Dean may support the principal’s decision, remand it back to the principal for consideration of additional issues, or reverse the decision.

The Dean's findings must be in writing and must be provided to the parents.

IV. Promotion Standards for Students with Disabilities

To the extent possible, students with disabilities must be held to the same promotion standards as all other students. However, for students who take alternative assessments in lieu of the end-of-grade (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) tests, promotion decisions must be based on criteria recommended by the IEP team.

All intervention strategies and other opportunities, benefits, and resources that are made available to students without disabilities must be made available to those students with disabilities who are subject to the student promotion standards. Such opportunities must be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

V. Reporting Requirements

1. Principal's Report to the Dean

At least on an annual basis, the principal shall provide the Dean with the following information for NUE:

- a. aggregate student performance scores on state-mandated tests and any other standardized tests used by NUE;
- b. the number and percentage of students retained and/or not meeting the standards for their grade level;
- c. the number and percentage of third grade students exempt from mandatory third grade retention by category of exemption as listed in state law; and
- d. remedial or additional educational opportunities provided by NUE and the success of these efforts in helping students meet promotion standards.

2. Report to the North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction

NUE will provide required information regarding student performance annually to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction to the extent that such reporting requirements established by statute and the Department of Public Instruction apply to NUE.

VI. Notification to Parents

The principal shall provide information regarding promotion standards to all students and parents. Parents are encouraged to help their children meet the promotion

standards and will have opportunities to discuss the promotion standards and procedures with teachers and the principal.

Teachers will update parents periodically during the school year regarding any concerns the teachers have about their students' progression toward promotion standards. The teacher of a student who does not meet promotion standards must notify the student's parents that the student has failed to meet the standards for progression to the next level of study and must provide the parents with information concerning retesting, intervention, review, and appeal opportunities. When a student is to be retained, the principal shall provide the student's parents written notice of the retention.

VII. Children of Military Families

As required by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (N.C.G.S. 115C-407.5) and NUE policy, the principal has the authority to exercise flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for the placement of children of military families in courses or programs.

History:

Initially approved July 28, 2021

Authority: Chancellor

Responsible Office: Academic Affairs