

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION/RETENTION**

The School District of Deerfield has three education levels – the elementary, middle and secondary – all contributing to the education needs of children. Students at these different levels have divergent needs in their academic, social, emotional and physical maturation.

The Middle School has a responsibility to meet the unique needs of sixth through eighth graders and to acknowledge that these students are no longer in the elementary school and have not yet reached the high school. They are in a transitional stage of their lives in all developmental areas.

The transition from the elementary school to the high school should be a gradual process. In our constant striving for excellence in education, the Deerfield Middle School endeavors to create a learning environment that provide stability, promotes responsibility and is sensitive to the growing needs of the middle school child.

#### **Middle School Promotion Procedures**

- A. The promotion procedures at the Middle School are designed to ensure that all students who are promoted are adequately prepared for the next grade level. Successful completion of courses at the sixth through eighth grade levels is determined by the final grade.
- B. Students who have final grades of “E” or “D-“ or higher in all their classes will be promoted to the next grade level.

#### **Middle School Retention Procedures**

- A. Promotion and retention of students who have a final grade of “F” in one or more of their classes will be determined by the procedures outlined herein. A final determination of the student’s grade placement for the succeeding year cannot be made until the final grades are recorded and in some cases until summer school is completed. Students and parents or guardians are notified of grades via the report card at the end of each nine week grading period. If a student is in danger of failing a course, the student and his/her parents or guardian will be notified as early in the year as possible, but no later than three weeks before the end of the grading period.

#### **Failure of a Course**

Students who fail a course will be promoted to the next grade level. However, failure of a core academic course will result in a student automatically being referred into a summer school program. If a program is not available in Deerfield, the student may attend other approved programs at their own expense. The intent is to enable students to acquire the skills needed to meet success in the same subject area at the next grade level. Students who do not successfully complete an approved summer program will be required to repeat that course the following year.

Code 345.42 (Continued)

Students and parents should recognize that failing multiple required courses could result in a student repeating virtually an entire year in the middle school.

**In accordance with s.s. 118.33 (6), promotion from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade beginning September 1, 2002 shall be determined based on the following criteria:**

1. Student scores at least basic level on four out of five subtests on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE), three of which must be reading, language arts and mathematics.

OR

2. By having earned a 2.0 or better grade point average (with no grade of F) in middle school course work that is directly related to each sub-test failed.

For example, a student who has failed the Mathematics sub-test of the WKCE must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA counting all middle school math courses.

OR

3. A "Promotion Committee" will meet and review the student's total academic record (including report cards, results of abacus outcomes, standardized tests, samples of the student's work, etc.). The Promotion Committee will be composed of the principal, guidance counselor, school psychologist, academic teachers in subject area(s) with a WKCE score below basic and a 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in these subject area(s). If the student has an IEP, then the Case Manager will be a part of this committee. Based on all of the academic performance information gathered this Committee will:

- a. Recommend promotion

or

- b. Establish a "Remediation Plan" for the student. The Plan will state specifically what the student needs to complete in order to be promoted. Parents will be informed and involved in the completion of the Plan. Once the plan is in place and working the student will be promoted. If the committee or parents feel a "Remediation Plan" will not be enough to compensate for deficiencies then the student will be retained.

or

4. If the student has an IEP, then the District shall use criteria identified in the IEP to determine promotion