

GILMER COUNTY GRADE ADVANCEMENT AND 'TESTING-OUT' POLICY

Rationale/Purpose:

Gilmer County Schools acknowledges the importance of the teacher and classroom environment as a means of effectively delivering course content. Generally, students benefit from the daily interaction that occurs within the classroom setting. With the paced delivery of content in the classroom, most students are able to achieve success. In accordance with State Board Policy 2510, "students may receive credit for courses based on tested or demonstrated mastery of the instructional goals and objectives associated with successful completion of a course. Students who demonstrate mastery of instructional goals must be provided opportunities to progress to the next level of instruction."

Procedures:

In this regard, Gilmer County Schools has developed procedures to allow students in grades 1-12 this opportunity.

Preschool-Kindergarten:

We, in Gilmer County Schools, believe that the social and emotional needs, as well as, academic needs of our students in preschool and kindergarten can be best met in these respective programs. Children in preschool or kindergarten need to be 4 or 5 years old, respectively, on or before August 31st of the year they enter school.

Grades 1-8:

Students in grades 1-8 who have scored at the ninety-fifth (95th) percentile in Total Basic Skills on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-9) may apply to advance one grade level. Applications are available at the local schools and must be submitted to the principal by May 1st (in the school year prior to entering the grade level being considered) except for the 1998-99 school term in which the deadline will be extended until July 10th. Upon receipt of the application the principal will convene a School Assistance Team (SAT). Parent participation in this meeting is required. After considering all available information regarding the student, the committee will make a recommendation. If it is the recommendation of the team to proceed, the student will be scheduled to complete the SAT-9 Level T for the grade level the student is attempting to 'skip'. To demonstrate mastery the student must score at least at the 60th percentile in every subtest based on the spring norms for the grade level being exempted. The exams will be secure and administered under standardized conditions in order to maintain the integrity of the program. Students may advance only one grade level in grades 1-4 and one grade level in grades 5-8.

Grades 9 -12

Gilmer County High School will consider properly submitted requests for "mastery test" credit in any of the designated courses (listed below) as determined by the graduation requirements in effect at the time the student entered the ninth grade.

Designated Courses

English/Language Arts 9
English/Language Arts 10
English/Language Arts 11
English/Language Arts 12

Algebra I
Algebra II
Geometry

United States Studies to 1900
World Studies to 1900
20th/21st Century Studies

Health
Science 9
Science 10

A student initiating a request for mastery test credit must submit a written application of *Consideration of Mastery Testing* to the school principal prior to June 1 in the school year prior to the year the student would normally take the course. A request for mastery testing must be made in the sequence in which the student would normally take the course.

To be eligible to 'test-out' of a course required for graduation, a student must score at or above the eighty-fifth (85th) percentile on the most recent SAT-9 subtest for the discipline area (English, math, science, social studies) for which the mastery testing is requested.

The county approved test will allow the student to demonstrate mastery of the West Virginia instructional goals and objectives of the course. Tests may be given during or outside the school day at the discretion of the school officials. The tests will be given on a pre-selected date in August.

Students will be notified of the test results within fourteen calendar days. Credit will be granted to the student who scores at or above 85% on the course specific mastery test. Credit will be equivalent to that usually earned in the class. A grade of "S" will be recorded on the student's permanent record. The "S" will not be included in any G.P.A. or class ranking calculations. There will be no provisions for retesting.

This policy replaces/repeals: Gilmer County Schools Policy 5113, 6165

Reference: WV State Policy 2510

On review: 6/01/98

Approved: 6/15/98