

The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) has adjusted the way we make decisions about promoting students in grades 3 through 8 to the next grade. These changes ensure that students' scores on New York State English and math tests are no longer a primary factor in promotion decisions. Instead, schools will base promotion decisions on a variety of measures of student progress, which may include report cards, samples of student writing, projects, assessments, assignments, and other student work alongside State tests. If your child has an Individualized Education Plan or is an English Language Learner, talk to your child's school about how this process applies.

Promotion Process and Timeline

May – Early June:

Schools complete promotion portfolios for students who may not be ready for the next grade level based on student work and assessments from throughout the school year.



Week of June 16:

Families of students who are not promoted receive written notice that includes their child's summer school start date and location.



Mid-August:

At the end of summer school, principals make final promotion recommendations based on whether students' portfolios and summer school work demonstrate readiness for the next grade level.

Week of August 25:

Families may appeal promotion decisions by submitting a written appeal to their child's principal.



Week of June 9:

Principals make promotion recommendations based on the English language arts and math skills demonstrated in each student's portfolio.

Students in grade 8 are also required to pass their English, math, social studies, and science courses to be promoted.

July 1–31:

Students who were not promoted in June attend summer school.



Mid-August:

Families of students not promoted in June receive a final promotion decision letter in the mail.



September 4:

First day of 2014–15 school year



Does my child's school have the correct address for my family?

If your child is not promoted in June, a final August promotion decision letter will be mailed to the home address listed on ARIS Parent Link.

To ensure that you receive this letter, make sure your contact information is up-to-date.

1. Log on to your account at www.arisparentlink.org
2. Click on the Student Profile.
3. Scroll to the bottom of the page to review your Contact Information.
4. If your address is incorrect, ask your child's school to update your contact information before the end of the school year.

Visit your local library branch to access the internet and log on to ARIS Parent Link.

Do you need your ARIS Parent Link username and password or help logging on to your account?

Ask the Parent Coordinator at your child's school before the end of the school year.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will schools make promotion decisions this year?

Promotion decisions will be made by each school principal based on multiple measures of student readiness for the next grade level in English and math.

- First, teachers will review student work from throughout the school year to identify students who may not be ready for the work of the next grade in English language arts and/or math, even with support. Students whose work shows that they are ready for the next grade will be promoted by the principal in June.
- Next, teachers will complete promotion portfolios for students whose work shows that they may not be ready for the next grade. The teacher will score the portfolio using DOE guidelines. The principal will make the promotion decision based on the portfolio results.

If a student is not promoted in June based on his or her portfolio results, he or she will be recommended for summer school. At the end of summer school, the school will complete another review of student work, and the principal will make the final promotion decision.

How will schools determine which students complete promotion portfolios?

Schools will complete promotion portfolios for students whose work shows that they may not be ready for the next grade. This work may include report card grades, student writing samples, projects, assessments, assignments, and other work chosen by the school. State test results may be one of several factors schools use to determine which students complete a portfolio, but they may not be the only factor.

Schools will not complete portfolios for students who have demonstrated sufficient progress in English and math based on their work throughout the school year. The principal will promote these students in June.

What is a promotion portfolio?

As in the past, the DOE's promotion portfolios include standards-based assessments and classwork. This year, the assessments included in the portfolio align to the Common Core Learning Standards and focus on determining whether students are ready for the work of the next grade in English language arts and math.

- The English language arts portfolio includes writing samples and assessments of reading accuracy and reading comprehension.
- The math portfolio includes one-on-one and independent math assessments and classwork focused on the major work of the grade.

If a student receives a low score on the State test(s), or did not take the test(s), must he or she complete a portfolio?

Not necessarily. Schools may use State test results as one of several factors to determine which students complete a promotion portfolio. If a student's work demonstrates that he or she may not be ready for the work of the next grade, even with support, the teacher will complete a promotion portfolio to determine whether the student has made enough progress in English language arts and math.

Will summer school be different this year?

Summer school is intended to provide enriching learning experiences that support students in developing the skills and knowledge needed for the next grade level. This year, the DOE is eliminating the test typically given on the last two days of summer school. Instead, at the end of the summer, schools will complete an additional review of students' portfolios alongside their summer school work and assessments. Students must meet the required promotion benchmarks to be promoted.

Summer school provides an opportunity for students to complete additional work that can be added to their portfolio for August promotion decisions. If your child cannot attend summer school, you may still submit a written appeal to the principal by the end of August. The superintendent will review the principal's decision and make a final determination. Not attending summer school will limit a student's ability to supplement their portfolio in advance of a superintendent review.

What can I do if I am not satisfied with the final promotion decision for my child?

If you are not satisfied with the promotion decision, you may submit a written appeal to your child's principal at the end of August. The appeal will be reviewed by the superintendent, who makes the final decision.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 311 or visit <http://schools.nyc.gov/ParentsFamilies>