

Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Promotion Criteria Promotion from 8th Grade

Promotion criteria are determined by state law and MMSD policy. To be promoted from 8th grade to 9th grade a student must meet the Report Card Criteria **or** the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam Criteria **or** pass a district approved summer school program.

1. **Report Card Criteria:** By the end of 8th grade a student must have a 1.67 cumulative grade point average (GPA) during both 7th and 8th grade in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies in order to be promoted to 9th grade.
2. **Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam Criteria:** If the 8th grade student has less than a 1.67 cumulative GPA in any one of the four core content areas (English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies), the student will need a score of “basic” or above on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) in that content area in order to be promoted to 9th grade.
3. **Summer School Option:** Students who do not meet the Report Card or WKCE promotion criteria must pass a district approved summer school program in order to be promoted to 9th grade. Passing the MMSD summer school math course meets the math criteria. Passing the MMSD summer school English course meets criteria for English/language arts, science, and social studies.
4. **Students with Disabilities:** The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team for a student with a disability determines whether the student’s promotion is governed by MMSD promotion criteria or the student’s IEP in the four core content areas.
5. **English Language Learners:** English Language Learners who are at English Proficiency Levels 1 or 2 will be promoted to 9th grade. English Language Learners who are at English Proficiency Levels 3, 4, or 5 at the beginning of their 8th grade year must meet promotion criteria in **math only** to be promoted to 9th grade. They do not have to meet criteria in English/language arts, science, or social studies.

Retained 8th Grade Options

Students who do not meet promotion criteria will remain in 8th grade until they satisfy district requirements. Students retained in 8th grade have the option to repeat 8th grade in their school of residence or attend the districtwide AERO program.

A retained 8th grade student who meets the District’s requirement(s), based on teacher and principal recommendations, shall be promoted as soon as practicable. Actual transfer to a high school program will only occur at the semester. Students will not be retained for two consecutive years.

Appeal Process

Parent/guardian may appeal a retention decision to the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary School.

Procedures

1. For 8th grade students entering the district with missing or incomplete information, a teacher and principal may recommend promotion based on mastery of content areas. The recommendation must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education.
2. All 8th grade students entering the school district during the 4th quarter will be promoted.
3. GPAs and report cards from other school districts may be used in meeting promotion criteria.
4. There is not a single test students can take instead of the WKCE to show proficiency in English/language arts, math, science, or social studies.

If you have questions about the promotion criteria, please contact your student’s principal.