

Louisiana is transitioning to higher expectations for students. In order to support students as they and their teachers learn the new expectations, to avoid adverse impacts, and to improve the academic achievement of students struggling to successfully complete the eighth grade, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has given preliminary approval to new policies related to eighth grade students who fail to meet standards required for promotion to the ninth grade.

2013-2014	<p>Students in grades 3-8 will take state assessments—LEAP and iLEAP—that are more closely aligned to Louisiana’s new standards.</p> <p>Results will be available May 2014.</p>
2014-2015	<p>Students in grades 3-8 will take new assessments that are fully aligned to the Common Core State Standards.</p> <p>Due to the work associated with scoring a brand new test and setting achievement levels, test results will likely not be available until late summer 2015.</p>

The current eighth grade promotion policies contained in Bulletin 1566 remain in effect. However, for first-time students enrolled in the eighth grade in 2013-2014 and thereafter, BESE has authorized local school systems to place students who do not achieve the standard required for promotion to the ninth grade in a transitional ninth grade beginning in Fall 2014.

The following policies shall govern transitional ninth grade:

- **Summer Remediation and Retesting:** Students failing to achieve the standard required for promotion to the ninth grade shall participate in summer remediation and take the applicable retest in order to be placed in transitional ninth grade.
- **Local Decision Making:** Placement in transitional ninth grade shall be at the discretion of the local school system. LEAs are highly encouraged to make such placements, as data have shown that students placed on a high school campus are more likely to graduate and less likely to drop out.
- **Inclusion in High School Cohort:** Students placed in transitional ninth grade shall not be included in the high school cohort for one year. Following one year in transitional ninth grade, students shall enter the high school cohort, the same year in which they would enter the cohort had they been held back in eighth grade.