

Louisiana is transitioning to higher expectations for students. In order to support students as they and their teachers learn the new expectations, and to avoid adverse impacts, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has given preliminary approval to transition policies for fourth grade promotion for the next two years.

2013-14	<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 in May 2014.</p>
2014-15	<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>

What does this mean for fourth grade student promotion during 2013-14 and 2014-15?

The current fourth grade promotion policies contained in Bulletin 1566 remain in effect. However, for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, BESE has authorized local school systems to issue waivers for first-time fourth grade students who do not achieve the passing standard on tests, but who demonstrate readiness to progress to fifth grade.

2013-14

- Student results will be available May 2014.
- LEAs electing to use fourth grade promotion transitional waivers must update pupil progression plans to guide educators in determining if students are prepared for fifth grade. Such guidance shall include the evidence of student learning that shall be considered, including but not limited to state assessment results, performance on classroom assignments, course grades, and any benchmark assessments.
- Students who do not earn a passing score on the LEAP must attend summer remediation and retest before being placed in fifth grade via the transition waiver.
- LEAs continue to make placement decisions for students transferring to public schools from nonpublic schools or home study programs.

2014-15

- Student results will be available late summer 2015.
- Pupil progression plans must include guidance outlining what evidence should be considered in the place of statewide assessments (e.g., performance on benchmark assessments, course grades).
- LEAs must continue to offer summer school to non-proficient students. However, no retest will be available during summer 2015.
- LEAs continue to make placement decisions for students transferring to public schools from nonpublic schools or home study programs.

For the 2015-2016 school year and beyond, the transitional policies will no longer be in effect, and fourth grade students must meet the passing standard in order to be promoted to the fifth grade. The passing standard will be defined as achieving proficiency on either ELA or math, and scoring one achievement level below proficient in the other subject. Currently, proficiency is considered *Basic*; however, in 2015 after PARCC results are available, BESE will determine the schedule for increasing the standard for proficiency to *Mastery* by 2025. That schedule will determine the level of performance needed for students to demonstrate proficiency each year.