

**What can I do to help my child reach the criteria for grade advancement?**

*Because the policy focuses on multiple measures of achievement, the progress of a student will be assessed in a variety of ways. Parents can help by communicating regularly with teachers at school. Parents can also help by taking an active interest in what happens at school and reviewing homework.*

**When will I be notified if my child has been identified under the grade advancement policy?**

*At the elementary level a child study team would need to be formed by the first full week in February for those students being considered for retention. The decision to retain a student will be determined by the child study team prior to May 15.*

*At the middle school and junior high, an Individual Plan of Progress (IPP) will be developed for a student with failing grades in one or more subject areas. The IPP will be monitored by a child study team throughout the eighth grade year. The final decision to retain a student will be determined prior to May 15.*

**If I have additional questions, whom can I contact?**

*Questions regarding the grade advancement policy may be addressed to Kathi Stebbins Hintz, Director of Instruction, at 715-424-6721, ext. 1053, or [Kathi.Stebbins@wrps.net](mailto:Kathi.Stebbins@wrps.net).*

*For questions regarding special education students, please contact Trudy DeSimons, Director of Pupil Services, at 715-424-6724, ext. 1080, or [Trudy-DeSimons@wrps.net](mailto:Trudy-DeSimons@wrps.net)*

**Questions may also be addressed to the building principal at your child's school. Elementary, middle and junior high principals are listed below:**

**Grant**  
Tim Bruns  
[Tim.Bruns@wrps.net](mailto:Tim.Bruns@wrps.net)  
(715) 424-6766

**Grove**  
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**Howe**  
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**Mead**  
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**THINK Academy**  
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**Vesper Community Academy**  
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**Washington**  
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**Woodside**  
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(715) 424-6793

**WR Area Middle School**  
Tracy Ginter  
[Tracy.Ginter@wrps.net](mailto:Tracy.Ginter@wrps.net)  
(715) 424-6740

**East Junior High**  
Kevin Yeske  
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**WISCONSIN RAPIDS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Grade  
Advancement  
Parent Brochure  
2014-15**

**Kindergarten  
Grade 4  
Grade 8**

As a result of state law, kindergarten, fourth and eighth grade students must meet grade advancement policy requirements. The following questions and answers are designed to help you learn more about the grade advancement policy and how it will affect your children.



Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools  
510 Peach Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
715-424-6700  
[www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org)



# GRADE ADVANCEMENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Which students are affected by the policy?

Students advancing from kindergarten to first grade, from fourth grade to fifth grade, and from eighth grade to ninth grade will be affected by the policy.

## What criteria will be considered for grade advancement?

The areas considered for grade advancement will include the student test scores on the WKCE and the Smarter Balanced Assessment at grades 4 and 8, as well as academic performance and teacher recommendations.



At kindergarten, multiple criteria based on the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards will be considered, as well as teacher recommendations.

## What areas will be considered for academic performance at kindergarten?

The following criteria, based on the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, will be considered at kindergarten:

- Health and physical development
- Social/emotional development
- Language development and communication

- Approaches to learning
- Cognition and general development

## What areas will be considered for academic performance at grade 4?

The following areas will be considered for academic performance at grade 4:

- Student progress reports in grades 1-3
- Reading level
- Performance on Universal Screener assessments in grades K-3
- STAR Reading and STAR Math scores

## What areas will be considered for academic performance at grade 8?

The following areas will be considered for academic performance at grade 8:

- History of performance on the WKCE
- STAR Reading and STAR Math scores in grades 3-8
- Reading Inventory Lexile levels
- Acceptable attendance
- Successful completion of all goals on the Individual Plan of Progress
- Score of Basic or higher on the Smarter Balanced Assessment or WKCE in a failed content area

## How will teachers make recommendations for grade advancement?

Teachers communicate regularly with parents regarding student progress. Teacher recommendations for grade advancement will be made

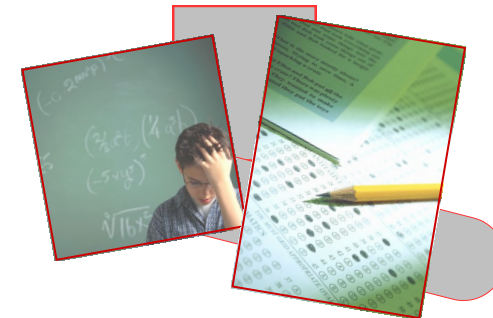
through a building child study team process. The child study team will consist of the building administrator, school psychologist, parent, guidance counselor, and classroom teachers.

## How do these requirements apply to special education students?

Grade advancement is determined by the IEP team and addressed by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

## How can parents learn more about the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination, the Smarter Balanced Assessment and District assessments?

Information about the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) and Smarter Balanced Assessment can be found on the Department of Public Instruction's website, [www.dpi.state.wi.us](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us).



**Additional information about District assessments can be found by contacting the reading and math interventionists at your child's school.**