

Why T9 is Important for Students:

Prior to the 2014-15 school year, nearly 40% of Louisiana students retained in the 8th grade never entered high school. In response, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) developed Transitional 9th Grade (T9) to allow students who would have been retained in 8th grade to move to a high school campus and receive targeted academic remediation. By identifying and serving T9 students, middle and high schools can drastically decrease drop-out rates and dramatically improve life outcomes for Louisiana's most vulnerable students.

A Student's Experience Between 8th and 9th Grade

To understand the benefits of Transitional 9th grade, schools and families must first understand these basic facts about T9:

- 1) Only students who fail the ELA and/or math portion of the LEAP are eligible for placement into Transitional 9th grade. In order to be placed in T9, these students must then complete post-LEAP remediation in the non-proficient subject area(s).
- 2) The sending middle school is responsible for promoting students to Transitional 9th grade. All requirements for promotion must be outlined in the middle school's Pupil Progression Plan.
- 3) Students promoted to T9 take high school courses and have the same diploma options as all other high school students. T9 students are placed on a five-year timeline for graduation from high school, but can still graduate in four years.
- 4) High schools provide each T9 student with targeted academic remediation in the subject area(s) that the student did not pass on the LEAP, as well as additional counseling supports.
- 5) After completing their Transitional 9th grade year, students will automatically be promoted to 9th grade. However, students who earn enough high school credits can be promoted directly to 10th grade.

Responsibilities of Middle Schools:

Middle school educators play a critical role in ensuring 8th grade students are promoted appropriately to T9 or 9th grade. In order to promote a student that has failed the ELA and/or math state test to Transitional 9th grade, middle schools must provide eligible students with remediation in the appropriate content area(s), adhere to their local Pupil Progression Plans, and complete the following steps:

Middle School Action Items	School Personnel	Timeline
Identify 8 th grade students at risk of not achieving proficiency on state exams	SBLC team, teachers, counselors	Prior to state testing
SBLC reviews coursework, behavioral data, and other relevant data to determine the appropriate promotion decision for each student	SBLC team	After state testing, prior to the completion of school
Communicate to eligible families that completing remediation in non-proficient subject areas (ELA and/or math) is required for promotion to Transitional 9th Grade	School leaders, counselors	May and/or June
Make final retention or T9 promotion decisions and communicate those decisions appropriately with families and receiving high schools	School leaders, counselors, teachers	Following the completion of subject remediation

How T9 Affects School Accountability:

Transitional 9th Grade can have a positive impact on School Performance Scores for both middle and high schools.

- Credit accumulation for School Performance Scores only applies to a student's T9 year, not their traditional 9th grade year. Credits earned by T9 students will be included in the sending middle school's dropout/credit accumulation index (DCAI).
- T9 students are not included in a school's graduation cohort until their second year of high school, meaning high schools can receive full credit in their SPS for graduating a T9 student in five years.
- Only proficient EOC scores from T9 students count toward a high school's SPS. If a T9 student does not earn a "Good" or "Excellent" on an EOC exam, that score does not impact a school's SPS.