

Transitional 9th Grade (T9) FAQs

Transitional 9th grade allows placement of students who are unable to meet the standard of proficiency in grade 8. Students are placed in Transitional 9th grade to improve the likelihood of high school graduation by providing the necessary remediation in a high school setting.

CAN A STUDENT STILL BE PROMOTED TO HIGH SCHOOL IF HE OR SHE DOES NOT PASS THE LEAP?

- Yes, those students who do not meet the promotion standard after taking the eighth-grade state assessments may be placed on a high school campus in Transitional 9th grade.
 - A student who does not earn a score of “Basic” or above on either math or English portions of the 8th-grade state assessments and “approaching basic” in the other subject may be placed in T9.
- The initial decision to place a student in the transitional ninth grade or to retain a student in the eighth grade shall be made by the school in which the student is enrolled in the eighth grade, in consultation with the parents or legal guardians of the student.
- The school system may waive the policy for students scoring unsatisfactory in math or English if the student scores mastery or advanced in the other subject.
 - The decision is made in accordance with the local pupil progression plan.
 - The student has participated in the spring administration of the LEAP and has attended a summer remediation program offered by the LEA.
 - Parental consent is granted.
- The school system may waive the policy for students scoring unsatisfactory in math or English if the student scores basic in the other subject, provided that the following criteria are met:
 - The student scored approaching basic or above on the science and social studies components of the LEAP.
 - The student had an overall 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
 - The student had a minimum of 92 percent attendance during the school year.
 - The decision is made in accordance with the local pupil progression plan.
 - The student has participated in the spring administration of the LEAP and has attended a summer remediation program offered by the LEA.
 - Parental consent is granted.
- The school system, through its superintendent, may consider a waiver for a student who has scored at the approaching grade level on both the English and math components of the LEAP. The LEA may grant the waiver in accordance with the local public progression

plan provided the following criteria are met:

- The student has attended a LEAP summer remediation program offered by the LEA.
- Limited English proficient (LEP) students may participate in the statewide assessments as stated in Bulletin 118. The SBLC shall be granted the authority to waive the state's grade promotion policy for an LEP student.
- The LEA, through its superintendent, may grant a waiver on behalf of individual students who are unable to participate in LEAP testing because of one or more of the following extenuating circumstances as verified through the appropriate documentation:
 - A physical illness or injury that is acute or catastrophic in nature.
 - A chronic physical condition that is in an acute phase.
 - Court-ordered custody issues.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT T9?

- T9 students shall receive appropriate academic support in any subject in which they did not score at or above proficient (defined as Mastery in LAC 28:XI.6113.B).
- T9 is an option for any student who recently completed the eighth grade and is transferring into the LEA from another state or country. If summer remediation is offered, the LEA shall review the student's academic record to determine appropriate placement in ninth grade or transitional ninth grade.
 - Such placement shall occur no later than October 1 of each school year.
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- Students enrolled in transitional ninth grade shall receive appropriate academic supports in any subjects in which they did not score at or above proficient, as determined by BESE.
 - A plan outlining such academic supports shall be included in the student's individual graduation plan.
 - Progress pursuant to such specified academic supports shall be reviewed at least once throughout the school year to determine effectiveness and any needed adjustments.
- T9 students can take part in high school activities (band, sports, etc).
 - T9 students can participate in sports, provided they meet the [LHSAA eligibility rules](#).
- T9 students receive extra academic support and class time in the subject area(s) in which they struggled on the 8th-grade LEAP.
- T9 students can enroll in high school-level classes, including career education courses, which parents and schools deem appropriate (i.e., the student is capable of successfully passing the course).
- T9 students shall receive dropout prevention and mentoring services.
- After one full year of T9, students shall be included in the ninth-grade graduation cohort

for accountability purposes.

WHY ARE STUDENTS PLACED IN T9?

Students are placed in T9 when they do not meet the promotion requirements of *Bulletin 1566* and the pupil progression plan, or when they transfer into the LEA from another state or country and a review of the academic record indicates that transitional ninth grade would be most appropriate for the student. The School Building Level Committee (SBLC), a committee that includes the parent and/ or legal guardian, at the middle school may review data such as standardized test scores, past coursework, attendance data, and student behavioral data to determine whether T9 placement is appropriate.

IS REMEDIATION REQUIRED TO BE PROMOTED TO HIGH SCHOOL?

Yes, the 8th grade students are required to attend remediation to be promoted to high school. The students may be offered, at no cost, extended, on-grade-level instruction through summer remediation to students who, based on a preponderance of evidence of student learning, are considered to be academically struggling, did not take the spring LEAP tests, and failed to meet grade-level expectations. Transportation shall be provided to and from the assigned remediation summer site(s) from, at a minimum, a common pick-up point.

WHEN ARE SUMMER PROMOTION DECISIONS MADE?

This will vary by local school systems. Reach out directly to the local school system for the timeframe.