

November 7, 2019

Dear SMUSD 8th grade families,

This letter is to inform you of the SMUSD Board of Education Policy regarding eligibility criteria for eighth grade promotion in the 2019-2020 school year. This policy establishes the academic and behavior criteria for participation in the 8th grade promotional exercises and activities.

AP 5123.1: PARTICIPATION IN 8TH GRADE PROMOTION EXERCISES, ACTIVITIES, AND CEREMONIES
(rev. 6/18/2019)

ACADEMICS

In order to encourage high standards of student achievement, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in promotion activities leading up to and including the ceremony in accordance with minimum grade requirements.

Any eighth-grade student who received two or more failing grades (F's) in the first progress report of the 2nd semester will have his/her progress reviewed and shall be placed on an academic contract. Any student who received two or more failing grades at the last progress report of the second semester may be excluded from all promotion exercises, activities, and ceremonies.

BEHAVIOR

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in promotion ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with the school wide comprehensive discipline plan.

Any eighth-grade student who received three or more unsatisfactory (U) citizenship grades at the last progress report of the second semester may be excluded from all promotion exercises, activities, and ceremonies.

Students suspended from school during the last quarter (9 weeks) may be excluded from promotion exercises and end of year activities.

NOTIFICATION

The parents of all eighth-grade students will receive a letter from the principal explaining the promotion policy during the first semester. In addition, the parents of students who meet these criteria will receive written notification during each semester. The parents of these students will be asked to meet with their students' teachers at the end of the first semester.

Parents shall receive a final letter of notification if their son/daughter still meets the exclusion from promotion criteria on the last progress report of the second semester. The Principal or their designee will ensure that all parents of excluded students receive the final notification letter. All written notices shall be provided in the home language of the receiving family.

APPEAL PROCESS

Parents have the right to request a conference with the Principal for the purpose of verification of their student's academic record and to receive an explanation of the reasons for their student's exclusion from the promotion exercises.

Please discuss the above criteria with your child to ensure he/she understands the academic and behavioral requirements for participation in eighth grade promotion ceremonies. Please feel free to contact your child's school administration for additional information or if you have further questions on this policy.

Sincerely,

SMUSD Instructional Services