



**Department of  
Education**

*Joel I. Klein, Chancellor*

# **Ending Social Promotion in Grades 4 and 6:**

## **Overview of Policy Proposal**

November 2009

# Context

Because all of our students deserve a fair chance at success...We propose stopping the pattern of moving students ahead when they are unprepared to succeed in the next grade level.

**This proposal builds on what we learned by ending social promotion in NYC elementary and middle schools over the past five years.**



# RAND's Findings

- Fifth graders who scored a level 1 or 2 in fourth grade performed better under the policy
- Fifth grade students subject to the policy performed significantly better on the 7th grade assessments than they would have in absence of the policy.
- Students experienced no negative socio-emotional effects when subject to the policy.

# RAND's Findings

The study also made some important discoveries about what works and what needs improvement in terms of interventions:

- > One-on-one tutoring
- > Small group tutoring
- > Saturday prep academies and the Summer Success academies also had a significant and positive impact on Math performance

# RAND's Findings

Administrators felt that the promotion policy:

- Focused the instructional efforts of schools;
- Made parents more concerned about student progress; and
- Provided additional resources to support low-achieving students.

# RAND's Recommendations

We are taking into consideration RAND's key recommendations:

- > Early identification and provision of Academic Intervention Service (AIS).
- > Enable AIS providers
- > Encourage schools to consider duration and participation when constructing Saturday programs.
- > Continue to encourage students to attend summer school.
- > Encourage continuation of one-on-one tutoring and small group intervention

# Timeline for Roll Out of Grades 4 and 6

Fall, 2009

- Identification of at-risk students and provision of academic support

Winter, 2010

- Distribute “Promotion In Doubt” letters to families
- Continue provision of academic support

Spring, 2010

- ELA and math assessments
- Communicate promotion decisions to families
- Summer school placement and support

Summer, 2010

- Summer school
- August assessments
- Communicate final promotion decisions to families

# Consultation Process: CEC Meetings

Community Superintendents made presentations and answered questions in meetings throughout October and November

Community Superintendents encouraged parents and community members to review the proposed policy and provide feedback as follows:

The complete text of the proposed revisions to Chancellor's Regulation A-501 can be viewed at the Panel for Education Policy's website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/leadership/PEP/default.htm>

To share feedback:

- e-mail [promotionpolicy@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:promotionpolicy@schools.nyc.gov)
- call (212) 374 – 6104