

2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan

Local Education Agency:

InspireNOLA Charter Schools

Background and Purpose

Louisiana state law (R.S. 24.4) requires local education agencies (LEAs) to establish a comprehensive Pupil Progression Plan based on student performance on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program with goals and objectives that are compatible with the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program and which supplements the minimum standards approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). **The plan shall address student placement and promotion** and shall require the student’s mastery of grade-appropriate skills before he or she can be recommended for promotion.

The law states that “particular emphasis shall be placed upon the student’s proficiency in grade-appropriate skills which may be considered in promotion and placement; however, each local school board shall establish a policy regarding student promotion and placement.” The law goes on to require the state Department of Education to establish, subject to the approval of BESE, the level of achievement on the fourth and eighth grade LEAP test—in mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies—needed for students to advance to grades five and nine. BESE must also determine the nature and application of various intervention options to be used when students fail to meet the minimum academic standards approved by the board.

BESE has established minimum standards in [Bulletin 1566 – Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures](#), that relate to placement, promotion, and supports and interventions for students not meeting minimum academic standards. BESE has also approved regulations pursuant to state law that relate to placement and promotion in [Bulletin 741 – Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators](#), which includes but is not limited to instructional time, grading policies, credit recovery, and graduation requirements. These bulletins also adhere to federal and state laws and regulations that govern the placement and promotion of students with disabilities, English learners, and transfer students.

The purpose of this document is to assist LEAs in developing their required Pupil Progression Plan in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and to codify LEA policies and procedures related to student placement and promotion. In each section of this document, language that conforms to applicable laws and regulations has been prepopulated. Space is provided for LEAs to add any additional local policies and procedures that fulfill the mandate of the law and support students in acquiring proficiency in grade-appropriate skills. Once completed, submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education, and published locally, teachers shall determine promotion or placement of each student on an individual basis. LEAs may review promotion and placement decisions in order to ensure compliance with their established policy, and reviews may be initiated by a school’s governing body, the local superintendent, or a student’s parent or legal custodian.

Questions about this document should be directed to ppp@la.gov.

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Placement of students in Kindergarten and Grade 1

Kindergarten

Schools can only make recommendations to parents regarding student enrollment in kindergarten, since kindergarten is not mandatory. However, in accordance with state law (R.S. 17:221), once students have enrolled in kindergarten, they are subject to compulsory attendance laws and promotion requirements set forth by the LEA.

Every child, as a prerequisite to enrollment in any first grade of a public school, shall meet one of the following criteria:

- attended a full-day public or private kindergarten for a full academic year; or
- passed an academic readiness screening administered by the LEA at the time of enrollment for first grade

The minimum age for kindergarten shall be one year younger than the age required for that child to enter first grade. Each local educational governing authority, by rule, may provide for a child of younger age to enter kindergarten, provided that such child has been evaluated and identified as gifted in accordance with state regulations for such evaluation.

Grade 1

- Any child admitted to kindergarten pursuant shall be eligible to enter first grade upon successful completion of kindergarten, provided all other applicable entrance requirements have been fulfilled.
- The age at which a child may enter the first grade of any public school at the beginning of the public school session shall be six years on or before September thirtieth of the calendar year in which the school year begins.
- Any child transferring into the first grade of a public school from another state and not meeting the requirements herein for kindergarten attendance shall be required to pass an academic readiness screening administered by the LEA prior to the time of enrollment for the first grade.

In the space below, please describe any additional placement considerations or policies required by the LEA. Include the names of any required assessments and explain how results will be used.

- Schools may administer their choice of the following assessments as an academic readiness screener:



K-3 Literacy Screener Scoring Guidance 2020-2021

Literacy Screener	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade
Acadience Reading (formerly DIBELS Next) Above Level On Level Below Level	First Sound Fluency 60 max 16+ 10-15 <10	Nonsense Word Fluency-Correct Letter Sounds (CLS) 143 max 34+ 27-33 <27	Oral Reading Fluency- Words Correct 227 max 68+ 52-67 <52	DAZE 50 max 11+ 8-10 <8
DIBELS 8th Above Level On Level Below Level	Phonemic Segmentation Fluency 84 max 15+ 5-14 <5	Nonsense Word Fluency-Correct Letter Sounds (CLS) 230 max 47+ 30-46 <30	Oral Reading Fluency- Words Correct 225 max 85+ 49-84 <49	MAZE 51 max 15+ 8-14.5 <8
STEEP Above Level On Level Below Level	Initial Sound Fluency 30 max 6+ 3-5 <3	Nonsense Word Fluency 135 max 35+ 28-34 <28	Oral Reading Fluency 303 max 68+ 48-67 <48	Advanced Literacy 8 max 7+ 5-6 <5
STEP Above Level On Level Below Level	First Sounds 10 max 7+ 6 <6	Reading Rate no max 75+ 40-75 <40	Oral Reading Fluency 150 max 76+ 50-75 <50	Retell (use grade-level rubric) 5 max 4+ 3 <3

- It is recommended that schools administer the academic readiness screening prior to the start of the school year to ensure the student is placed in the appropriate grade. However, as students are assigned to schools within InspireNOLA via the OneApp common enrollment system, the time of enrollment will be defined as the first school day after the student is assigned. In the event that a student is assigned after the first day of school, the school will have 5 school days to administer the academic readiness screener.
- All of InspireNOLA’s K-8 schools will each administer the academic readiness screener to students assigned to their school.
- Failure of the student to pass the academic readiness screening required for placement in the First Grade will not jeopardize the student’s placement at the school in an appropriate grade. (e.g., the school may re-assign the student to an appropriate grade).

Placement of transfer students

A student who has transferred from a public school, in- or out-of-state, or a nonpublic school, shall be granted credit for work completed in the previous school. A properly certified transcript shall be required with the student's record of attendance, levels of achievement, history of immunization, and units of credit earned.

Evaluation information for exceptional students transferring from another school system shall be reviewed by pupil appraisal and approved by a supervisor of special education before the student is enrolled in a special education program.

Students in grades 5 and 9 transferring to a public school from any in-state nonpublic school, any approved home study program, or a Louisiana resident transferring from any out-of-state school, shall be required to pass the English language arts and mathematics portions of the LEAP placement test.

Update to template for 2020-2021 school year:

Students who transfer from homestudy, nonpublic or out-of-state schools and are enrolling in grades 5 or 9 in 2020-2021 do not have to take the state placement test, although the test remains available.

In the space below, please describe any additional considerations or local policies related to placement of transfer students.

- For students experiencing homelessness, the requirement to produce a properly certified transcript with the student's record of attendance, levels of achievement, history of immunization, and units of credit earned shall be waived. InspireNOLA's homeless liaison will serve as an enrollment advocate for unaccompanied youth to these students in securing immunization(s), medical records, and other documentation.
- For students in grades 5 and 9, it is recommended that schools administer a LEAP 360 diagnostic test prior to the start of the school year to ensure the student is placed in the appropriate grade. However, as students are assigned to schools within InspireNOLA via the OneApp common enrollment system, the time of enrollment will be defined as the first school day after the student is assigned. In the event that a student is assigned after the first day of school, the school will have 5 school days to administer LEAP 360 diagnostic test.
- InspireNOLA's K-8 schools will each administer a LEAP 360 diagnostic test to students assigned to their school.
- Failure of the student to pass LEAP 360 diagnostic test required for placement in the Fifth or Ninth Grade will not jeopardize the student's placement at the school in an appropriate grade. (e.g., the school may re-assign the student to an appropriate grade).

Promotion for students in kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7

Teachers shall, on an individual basis, determine the promotion of each student according to the local Pupil Progression Plan. Particular emphasis shall be placed upon the student's proficiency in grade-appropriate skills.

In the space below, please describe the LEA's policies and procedures that will be used to determine promotion for students in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7.

- InspireNOLA schools will use the following criteria to determine the promotion of each student in grades 1 and 2:
 - Performance on core courses - average requirements
 - Performance on end of the year readiness requirements as indicated on a standardized measure such as DIBELS, Gates-MacGinitie, ITBS, SESAT, Fountas and Pinnell etc.
 - Completion of a school-provided remediation program
- Unless specified in school-specific criteria, schools will use the following criteria to determine the promotion of each student in grades 3,5,6, and 7:
 - Performance in the subjects of Reading, English/language arts (oral and written communication, handwriting, and spelling), mathematics, science and social studies based on the required grade level benchmarks
 - Performance on LEAP and/or LEAP Connect assessments
 - Completion of a school-provided remediation program
- Each SATeam will review and may either approve or reverse each determination of student promotion made by a teacher at the school. *See Appendix A for Documentation of Promotion/Retention and Appendix B for Student Educational Study Plan.*
- InspireNOLA Charter Schools, through its CEO, may grant a waiver on behalf of individual students who otherwise meet a school's promotional standards (including completion of coursework and proficient score on state tests), but have an excessive number of unexcused absences.

Promotion of students in grade 4

Each LEA shall identify third and fourth grade students who have not met an acceptable level of performance that would enable them to successfully transition to the next grade level. Fourth grade students who have not met the acceptable level of performance may be retained or promoted, but in either case, shall be provided with an individual academic improvement plan that adheres to the following requirements:

- The school shall convene an in-person meeting with the student’s parent or legal custodian, all teachers of core academic subjects, and specialized support personnel, as needed, to review the student’s academic strengths and weaknesses, discuss any other relevant challenges, and formulate an individual academic improvement plan designed to assist the student in achieving proficiency in all core academic subjects. All participants shall sign the documented plan and meet to review progress at least once more before the next administration of the LEAP assessment.
- The student shall be provided with focused, on-grade level instructional support that is appropriate to the content area(s) in which the student has not yet achieved proficiency. Instruction shall be aligned with state academic content standards.
- The student shall be identified as requiring an academic improvement plan in the state Student Information System (SIS).
- The student shall be afforded the opportunity to receive grade-level instruction during the summer.
- Each LEA shall adopt a written policy pertaining to the development of individual academic improvement plans. This policy shall be included in the Pupil Progression Plan.
- The Department shall audit a random sampling of students identified as needing an individual academic improvement plan in each local education agency each year.

The LDOE will provide to each LEA a roster of third and fourth grade students who have scored below the “Basic” achievement level in at least two core academic subjects. Such roster will assist the LEA in making final determinations relative to students’ required individual academic plans.

- The decision to retain a student as a result of his/her failure to achieve the standard on the LEAP shall be made by the LEA in accordance with this pupil progression plan.
- The individual academic improvement plan shall continue to be in effect until such time as the student achieves a score of “Basic” in each of the core academic subjects that initially led to the development of the student’s individual academic plan.

In the space below, please describe any local policies or additional considerations used to determine promotion of students at the end of the fourth grade.

- The decision to promote or retain will be made by the collaborative effort of parents, teachers, counselors and administrators after careful consideration of all of the available data. The final recommendation, however, lies with the school. *See Appendix A for Documentation of Promotion/Retention.*
- Types of data to consider when making the decision to promote or retain includes, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Students must attain at least the lowest “D” percentage as defined by the LDOE’s Grading Policy in each of the Core Subjects: Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.
 - All students must meet yearly attendance requirements as outlined in InspireNOLA Charter Schools’ policy and in accordance to Bulletin 741.
 - Whether or not the student meets the expectations set for successfully completing summer remediation, including 90% attendance rate in summer remediation program
 - Growth from beginning of summer remediation to end of summer remediation
 - Re-analysis of the data used to determine non-proficiency in ELA and/or Math
 - Number of subjects in which the student was identified as non-proficient
 - Qualitative data from parents, teachers, counselors and administrators
 - Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) data
- The SATeam/Stakeholders will convene to evaluate individual students based on the criteria set above and make a recommendation. The final recommendation, however, lies with the school.
- Types of measures to determine successful completion of summer remediation could include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - State-released ELA and Math Practice Tests results
 - Results from purchased assessments rated as Tier 1 and Tier 2 through the Instructional Materials Review
 - Results from district developed assessments aligned to the Louisiana State Standards (e.g., EAGLE)
 - Results from district developed assessments aligned to the priority content outlined in the Assessment Guidance
 - Growth from pre-test to post-test aligned to the Louisiana State Standards
- Fourth grade students who have not met the acceptable level of performance may be retained or promoted. Each student shall be provided with an individual academic improvement plan. *See Appendix F Individual Academic Improvement Plan.*

Promotion and support of students in Grade 8

Regular Grade 8 Promotion

Eighth grade students shall score at least at the “Basic” achievement level in either English language arts or mathematics and “Approaching Basic” in the other subject in order to be promoted to the ninth grade. Students who do not meet the promotion standard after taking the eighth grade state assessments in the spring may be placed on a high school campus in the transitional ninth grade. For any student who recently completed the eighth grade and is transferring into the LEA from another state or country after the completion of summer remediation, 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.

Grade 8 Promotion Waivers

The LEA may waive the state policy for students scoring at the “Unsatisfactory” level in English language arts or mathematics, if the student scores at the “Basic” level in the other, provided that the student has participated in the spring administrations of LEAP and has attended the summer remediation program offered by the LEA.

An LEA, through its superintendent, may grant a waiver on behalf of individual students who are unable to participate in LEAP testing or unable to attend LEAP summer remediation, including summer remediation required for placement in transitional ninth grade, because of one or more of the following extenuating circumstances as verified through appropriate documentation:

- *Physical Illness*—appropriate documentation must include verification that the student is under the medical care of a licensed physician for illness, injury, or a chronic physical condition that is acute or catastrophic in nature. Documentation must include a statement verifying that the illness, injury, or chronic physical condition exists to the extent that the student is unable to participate in remediation.
- *Custody Issues*—certified copies of the court-ordered custody agreements must be submitted to the LEA at least ten school days prior to summer remediation

Transitional 9th Grade

Any first-time eighth grade student who does not meet the passing standard set forth in BESE Bulletin 1566, §703, and any student not eligible for any waiver pursuant to §707 of the bulletin, after completing summer remediation, may be placed on a high school campus in transitional ninth grade.

LEAs shall follow the guidelines set forth in §703 to determine, based on evidence of student learning, whether eighth grade students may be promoted to the ninth grade or placed on a high school campus in transitional ninth grade. The percentage of an LEA’s eighth graders placed in transitional ninth grade is expected to remain stable over time. In the event that the percentage of an LEA’s eighth graders placed in transitional ninth grade exceeds the percentage of eighth graders in that LEA eligible for transitional ninth grade at the conclusion of the prior school year, the local superintendent of that LEA shall provide a written justification to the state superintendent.

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 student's parents.

The LEA shall admit transitional ninth grade students, subject to any admissions requirements approved by the school's governing authority or charter authorizer.

For any student who recently completed the eighth grade from another state or country and is transferring into the LEA after summer remediation has taken place, the LEA shall review the student's academic record to determine appropriate placement in ninth grade or transitional ninth grade. Students placed in the transitional ninth grade shall complete the remediation program offered by the LEA. Such placement shall occur no later than October 1 of each school year.

After one full year of transitional ninth grade, students shall be included in the ninth grade graduation cohort for high school accountability purposes.

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 (IGP). Progress pursuant to such specified academic supports shall be reviewed at least once throughout the school year in order to determine effectiveness and any needed adjustments.

In the space below, please describe any local policies or additional considerations used to determine promotion of students at the end of the eighth grade.

- The decision to promote or retain will be made by the collaborative effort of parents, teachers, counselors and administrators after careful consideration of all of the available data. The final recommendation, however, lies with the school. *See Appendix A for Documentation of Promotion/Retention.*
- Types of data to consider when making the decision to promote or retain includes, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Students must attain at least the lowest “D” percentage as defined by the LDOE’s Grading Policy in each of the Core Subjects: Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.
 - All students must meet yearly attendance requirements as outlined in InspireNOLA Charter Schools’ policy and in accordance to Bulletin 741.
 - Whether or not the student meets the expectations set for successfully completing summer remediation, including 90% attendance rate in summer remediation program
 - Growth from beginning of summer remediation to end of summer remediation
 - Re-analysis of the data used to determine non-proficiency in ELA and/or Math
 - Number of subjects in which the student was identified as non-proficient
 - Qualitative data from parents, teachers, counselors and administrators
 - Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) data
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- The SATeam/Stakeholders will convene to evaluate individual students based on the criteria set above and make a recommendation. The final recommendation, however, lies with the school.
- Types of measures to determine successful completion of summer remediation could include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - State-released ELA and Math Practice Tests results
 - Results from purchased assessments rated as Tier 1 and Tier 2 through the Instructional Materials Review
 - Results from district developed assessments aligned to the Louisiana State Standards (e.g., EAGLE)
 - Results from district developed assessments aligned to the priority content outlined in the Assessment Guidance
 - Growth from pre-test to post-test aligned to the Louisiana State Standards
- 8th grade students who have not met the acceptable level of performance may be retained or promoted. Each student shall be provided with an individual academic improvement plan. *See Appendix F Individual Academic Improvement Plan.*
- By the end of 8th grade, every student (with the assistance of his parent or other legal custodian and school guidance personnel, counselor) or IEP team (when applicable) shall begin to develop an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). *See Appendix G Individual Graduation Plan (IGP)*

High School Considerations

Instructional Minutes

When awarding credit based on instructional time, LEAs shall provide a minimum of 7,965 instructional minutes for one Carnegie credit, and students shall be in attendance for a minimum of 7,515 minutes. In order to grant one-half Carnegie credit, LEAs shall provide a minimum of 3,983 instructional minutes, and students shall be in attendance for a minimum of 3,758 minutes.

Individual Graduation Planning

By the end of the eighth grade, every student (with the assistance of his parent or other legal custodian and school guidance personnel, counselor) or IEP team (when applicable) shall begin to develop an [Individual Graduation Plan](#) (IGP). An IGP guides the next academic year's coursework, assisting students in exploring educational and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary education decisions as part of an overall career/post-secondary plan.

Financial Aid Planning

Louisiana requires public school students graduating spring 2018 and beyond to take one of the following steps as part of their Individual Graduation Plan:

- [Complete the FAFSA](#); or
- [Complete the Louisiana TOPS form](#); or
- Certify a waiver in writing to the LEA (sample: [non-participation LEA form/Letter](#)); or
- Receive a waiver through the district hardship waiver process.

Early Graduation

Each LEA shall develop an early graduation program allowing students to accelerate their academic progress, complete all state graduation requirements, and receive a high school diploma in less than four years.

- The early graduation program may include distance education (§2326), dual enrollment (§2327), and Carnegie credit and credit flexibility (§2314).
- LEAs shall not have any policies or requirements that would prevent students from graduating in less than four years.

Credit Recovery

Students may earn a maximum of seven credit recovery units that may be applied towards diploma graduation requirements and no more than two Carnegie units annually. The school system must annually report to LDE the rationale for any student:

- receiving more than two credit recovery credits annually; and/or
- applying more than seven total credit recovery Carnegie units towards graduation requirements.

Students earning Carnegie credit in a credit recovery course must have previously taken and failed the field. Previously attempted coursework is considered an academic record and must be recorded on the official transcript.

Completed credit recovery courses must be recorded and clearly labeled on the official transcript.

Students enrolled in credit recovery courses are not required to meet the instructional minute requirements found in §333 (Part A).

Credit recovery courses must be aligned with state content standards and include a standards aligned pre-assessment to identify unfinished learning and a standards aligned post-assessment to demonstrate course proficiency for content identified as non-proficient.

Credit recovery courses taught in a classroom setting using online courses designed for credit recovery must have an assigned certified Louisiana teacher of record or certified teacher of record recognized through a state reciprocity agreement facilitating the instruction.

The end-of-course exam weight in a student's final grade determined by the LEA must be the same for a traditional course and a credit recovery course. Students who have previously passed the end-of-course exam, but have failed the course, may choose to retain the previous end-of-course exam score in lieu of participating in an additional administration of the exam.

NCAA Policy

Nontraditional Courses

Courses include classes taught online or through blended learning, distance learning, credit recovery, independent study, or similar means. For a nontraditional program to be approved, the courses must meet the following requirements:

- The courses must meet NCAA course requirements.
- The courses must have ongoing and regular teacher-initiated interaction for the purposes of teaching, evaluating, and providing assistance throughout the duration of the course. Examples include synchronous or asynchronous instructive interaction, including emails, videoconferencing, online chats, phone calls, and feedback on assessments.
- The courses must have a defined time period for completion. This means the nontraditional program must identify the fastest and slowest paths to successfully complete a course.

Nontraditional courses could fail to meet NCAA core-course requirements for any of the following reasons:

- Does not require regular and ongoing instructive interaction between the student and teacher throughout the duration of a course.
- Does not require students to complete the entire course.

- Allows students to take numerous courses at the same time, especially courses in the same subject area or that are sequential.
- Does not prepare students for four-year college classwork.
- Does not have official student grade records.

Information for school administrators

If a nontraditional course or program at your school has not yet been reviewed by the NCAA, please contact the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) to begin the review process.

Credit recovery programs

For a credit recovery program to be approved, the courses must meet the following requirements:

- The courses must meet NCAA core-course requirements, and in some instances, nontraditional course requirements.
- The school must follow its credit recovery policies, regardless if the student is an athlete. The NCAA Eligibility Center may request the school's policy, if necessary.
- The credit recovery courses should be clearly identified as such on the high school transcript.
- Repeated courses must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively, to the previously attempted course.

Distance and E-Learning Environments

Coursework completed via distance learning during the spring and summer of 2020 will not require a separate review. This guidance applies to students seeking college eligibility.

Students are encouraged to complete their NCAA-approved core-courses through the channels of instruction provided or recommended by their school, district, or state department of education.

In the space below, please describe any local policies or additional considerations used to determine the promotion of students in Grades 9 and above and to support their attainment of a high school diploma.

- ***Credit Recovery*** – Students earning Carnegie credit in a credit recovery course must have previously taken and failed the course. InspireNOLA will offer credit recover in accordance to Bulletin 741.

Support for students

School year support

The individual academic plan for each student identified in §701 of BESE Bulletin 1566 will outline the responsibilities of each party for students who have failed to achieve the standards by the end of fourth grade.

The LEA will design and implement additional instructional strategies to move the students to grade-level proficiency by providing at least two of the following, which will be documented in the individual academic improvement plan:

- The student is placed in the classroom of a teacher who has been rated “Highly Effective” pursuant to his/her most recent evaluation or has achieved a value-added rating of “Highly Effective” pursuant to his/her most recent evaluation, or has documented evidence derived from state summative assessments of improving the academic performance of students having individual academic improvement plans in the past.
- The student completes summer remediation.
- Additional instructional time is provided during or outside of the school day to expose the student to high-quality instruction. This will not result in a student being removed from English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies courses.
- The student is provided access to on grade-level instruction that is aligned to Louisiana State Standards, which may include some below grade-level content and support needed to address the student’s identified weaknesses.
- Remediation programs used throughout the school day and school year will not account for more than 35 percent of total instructional minutes.

The LEA will offer, at no cost, extended, on-grade level instruction through summer remediation to students who did not take the spring LEAP tests or who failed to meet the standard set forth in §701 and §703 of BESE Bulletin 1566. The LEA will provide transportation to and from the assigned remediation summer site(s) from, at a minimum, a common pick-up point.

Students with disabilities attending summer remediation will receive special supports as needed.

Summer remediation

Pursuant to state law (R.S. 17:24.4), LEAs shall continue to offer summer remediation to any student not meeting promotion standards as determined by BESE. Summer remediation programs will meet all of the following requirements:

- Uses curriculum determined by the Louisiana Department of Education to fully align to Louisiana State Standards (Bulletin 141 – *Louisiana Standards for English Language Arts*, Bulletin 142 – *Louisiana Standards for Mathematics*, Bulletin 1962 – *Louisiana Science Content Standards*, and Bulletin 1964 – *Louisiana Social Studies Content Standards*).
- Utilizes teachers rated “Highly Effective” pursuant to the teacher’s most recent evaluation or have achieved a value-added rating of “Highly Effective” on the most recent evaluation.

- Limits remedial (below grade-level) instruction to only necessary and focused skills as identified from top-quality assessments and does not account for more than 35 percent of the total summer remediation instructional time.

Promotion and placement of certain student populations

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities attending summer remediation shall receive special supports as needed.

IEP teams shall determine promotion to the next grade level for a student with a disability who fails to meet state or local established performance standards for the purposes of promotion. Such determination shall be made only if, in the school year immediately prior to each grade level in which the student would otherwise be required to demonstrate certain proficiency levels in order to advance to the next grade level, the student has not otherwise met the local requirements for promotion or has not scored at or above the basic achievement level on the English language arts or mathematics components of the required state assessment and at or above the approaching basic achievement level on the other (Bulletin 1530 §403).

English learners

The requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are as follows:

- Establish procedures to identify language minority students.
- Establish procedures to determine if language minority students are Limited English Proficient.
- Establish procedures for age-appropriate placement and determine the specialized language services or program the district will use to address the linguistic and cultural needs of the Limited English Proficient student.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) students shall participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to Bulletin 118. Increasing the expectations for the academic content that students must master in grades K-12 requires a parallel increase in expectations for English language acquisition.

- Establish procedures to monitor former Limited English Proficient students for two years.
- Ensure that no LEP student shall be retained solely because of limited English proficiency.

In the space below, please describe any local policies or additional considerations related to the promotion and placement of students with disabilities, English learners, or other student populations.

- InspireNOLA establishes and monitors compliance with civil rights requirements for students with disabilities through our grant management and compliance monitoring procedures, established in consultation with obligations for InspireNOLA schools receiving IDEA funds. All InspireNOLA schools, whether they benefit directly from IDEA funds or not, are required to comply with all district monitoring requirements.
- InspireNOLA establishes and monitors compliance with civil rights requirements for English Learners through our grant management and compliance monitoring procedures, established in consultation with obligations for InspireNOLA schools receiving Title III funds. All InspireNOLA schools, whether they benefit directly from Title III funds or not, are required to comply with all district monitoring requirements.
- InspireNOLA establishes and monitors compliance with civil rights requirements for students experiencing homelessness through our grant management and compliance monitoring procedures, established in consultation with obligations for InspireNOLA schools receiving Title IIA and McKinney-Vento funds. All InspireNOLA schools, whether they benefit directly from Title IIA and McKinney-Vento or not, are required to comply with all district monitoring requirements
- InspireNOLA is no longer required to provide specialized language program(s) and services. Students who exit the program will be monitored for 2 years to ensure students can meaningfully participate in the general education plan. Students will be monitored by a ESL teacher, regular classroom teacher, school counselor and/or social worker.

Alternative education placements

Alternative schools/programs serve students who are not succeeding in the traditional educational setting and offer a venue that aids in preventing these students from dropping out of school. Alternative schools/programs provide educational and other services to students who have a variety of behavioral and other needs that cannot be adequately met in a traditional school setting. (Refer to Bulletin 741, §2903 and Bulletin 131)

In the space below, please describe the LEA's policies for placement of students in an alternative program or school, including any promotion policies that may differ from what was provided above.

- InspireNOLA Charter Schools does not include any alternative schools. Students in secure-care facilities are automatically enrolled in the district's alternative education programs operating in the Youth Study Center and Orleans Justice Center.
- InspireNOLA Charter School students interested in attending alternative schools/ programs within the parish (or Type 2 charter programs in surrounding parishes) may enroll in such programs via the OneApp common enrollment system.

Due process related to student placement and promotion

In the space below, please describe the LEA's due process procedures related to student placement for regular education students, students with disabilities having an Individualized Education Program plan, and students having an Individual Accommodation/Section 504 plan.

Regular education students

- In case of a discrepancy with student placement at the school site, the student and/or parent may make an appointment with the Head of School or designee to discuss the discrepancy.
- Parents/guardians may request an appeal of a disputed grade through the Curriculum Review Team, which consists of the teacher of record, the principal, counselor, and social worker. All final decisions must be documented and placed in the student's cumulative record.
- A high school student, over the age of 18, who has failed due to an end of the quarter grade may request an appeal through the Curriculum Review Team, which consists of the teacher of record, the principal, counselor, and social worker. All final decisions must be documented and placed in the student's cumulative record.
- Upon the request of a senior student who has failed a course(s)/semester necessary for graduation, the student shall be afforded the privilege of requesting an examination in each of the courses failed. The examination will be comprehensive, and the grade earned on the examination will be considered the final grade for the course/semester. The request for the examination(s) will be contingent upon the student's having met the minimum attendance requirements. The examination will be scheduled not later than twelve (12) days prior to the date set for graduation.

Students with disabilities

- Students performing in the diploma, and/or College track shall follow the guidelines set forth for the regular education students for disputing a placement and/or promotion. The request for review of records for promotion is given to the Students Assistant Team (SATeam). This team consists of persons who have knowledge of the exceptionality and the students' programming. The decision is made after review of records, programming and assessment by the SATeam.

Section 504 students

- Section 504 students shall follow the guidelines set forth for the regular education students.

Students experiencing homelessness

- InspireNOLA Charter Schools employs and makes available a Homeless Liaison, who serves as an enrollment advocate for unaccompanied youth, and assists such youth in choosing and enrolling in schools, consults and considers such youth's wishes, provides notice of right to appeal enrollment decisions, and assists youth in enrolling in school immediately pending the resolution of any dispute that may arise over school enrollment or placement and in the mediation of any such disputes.
- If a dispute arises over school selection or placement, InspireNOLA will admit a homeless child or youth to the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent or guardian, pending resolution of the dispute. Such enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act.

Additional LEA policies related to student placement, promotion, etc.

In the space below, please describe any additional LEA policies related to student placement and promotion, etc. that have not been addressed in other sections of this document.

Note: This may include course pre-reqs, class ranking, etc.

Uniform grading policy:

- InspireNOLA Charter Schools shall use the following uniform grading system for students enrolled in all grades 1-12 for which letter grades are used. This grading scale shall also apply for advanced course work, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Gifted and Talented, and/or Honors. Kindergarten will receive a standards-based report card graded using the scale below.

Kindergarten Grading Scale	
4	scholar exceeds expectation
3	scholar meets expectation
2	scholar is progressing towards expectation
1	scholar has not yet met expectation

1-12 Grading Scale	
Grade	Percentage
A	100-93
B	92-85
C	84-75
D	74-67
F	0-66

Citizenship Grading Scale	
O	Outstanding
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement
U	Unsatisfactory

GPA Scale (9-12)		
	Regular Courses	Honors, Gifted, & Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**
A =	4.0	5.0
B =	3.0	4.0
C =	2.0	3.0
D =	1.0	2.0
F =	0.0	0

**See eligible courses outlined in *Appendix E - Graduation Requirements, Dual Enrollment, and TOPS requirements as well as Bulletin 741*

- Advanced placement (AP) and honors course eligibility** – students are to meet any prerequisite criteria prior to enrolling in AP and/or honors course. Parents must complete AP/Honors placement acknowledgement prior to the student’s enrollment in the course. Also note that electives, AP, honors, CTE course offerings and placements are not guaranteed.
- Credit Recovery** – Students earning Carnegie credit in a credit recovery course must have previously taken and failed the course. InspireNOLA will offer credit recover in accordance to Bulletin 741.

Coursework Grading Grades 1 – 8

Individual students' grades and averages are expressed as alphabetical grades. Numerical grades are placed on the official documents: Roll Book and PowerSchool (which will print onto report cards).

The following grading category weights are to be followed:

- 30% Daily Assignments (Do Now, Performance Tasks, Exit Tickets)
- 40% Weekly Quizzes/Weekly Tests/Major Projects (teacher-made assessments)
- 20% Quarterly Exams (interim/teacher-made quarterly exam)
- 10% Daily Homework and Class Participation

After a student returns to school from an absence, he/she has the same number of days as the absence to make-up missed work for full credit. It is the student's responsibility to obtain any make-up work from his/her teacher. Extra credit will be offered at the teacher's discretion.

****Alice Harter ONLY****

Grading Weights

- 55% **Summative Assessments** - (tests and projects) teacher made assessments
- 20% **Classwork** – (quizzes, performance tasks, Do now & exit tickets)
- 10% **Quarterly Exams** - (interim/teacher-made quarterly exam)
- 15% **Daily Homework**

Coursework Grading Scale for Grades 9 – 12

Teachers should share a syllabus that outlines the work of the course and the grading requirements with each pupil and parent during the first week of classes each year or semester with appropriate follow-up reminders. The syllabus should give parents and pupils a clear definition of what the pupil must accomplish and show how the grade will be earned over the duration of the course.

Individual students' grades and averages are expressed as alphabetical grades. Numerical grades are placed on the official documents: Roll Book and PowerSchool (which will print onto report cards)

The following grading category weights are to be followed:

- 40% Major Assignments – minimum of four grades plus midterm
 - (tests, lab reports, projects, papers, performances, midterm –weighted as two tests)
- 40% Minor Assignments – minimum of 25 grades
 - (homework, classwork, do now, exit ticket, quizzes, mini-projects, lab components, short writing assignments)
- 20% Final Exam/EOC for applicable courses

The following grading category weights are to be followed for students with disabilities identified under IDEA who meet the participation criteria found in *Bulletin 1530—Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with Exceptionalities*, §405.B and R.S. 17:183.2:

- 45% Major Assignments – minimum of four grades plus midterm
 - (tests, lab reports, projects, papers, performances, midterm –weighted as two tests)
- 50% Minor Assignments – minimum of 25 grades
 - (homework, classwork, do now, exit ticket, quizzes, mini-projects, lab components, short writing assignments)
- 5% EOC for applicable courses

After a student returns to school from an absence, he/she has the same number of days as the absence to make-up missed work for full credit. It is the student's responsibility to obtain any make-up work from his/her teacher. Extra credit will be offered at the teacher's discretion.

See Appendix C for LEAP 2025 and EOC High School Scale Score to Grade Scale Conversion Tables.

Special Education: Report Cards/Grading Procedures

All special education pupils must receive quarterly Progress Report Forms. The format of Report Cards for exceptional pupils should be the same as report cards given to general education pupils. Grades must reflect the functioning level on which the grades were given except for Gifted/Talented students. Progress of pupils with severe/profound disabilities will be documented on a quarterly Progress Report Form, in lieu of a report card, and will reflect progress toward annual IEP goal achievement.

Gifted or Talented Scholars

In grades Kindergarten through 8, report card grades for pupils assigned to gifted classes must reflect grade-level work, regardless of the teacher of instruction. Any above grade level work shall be reported on the Special Education Progress Report form. If both the teacher of the gifted and the regular education teacher teach the student the same subject area, the grade level grade shall be determined by averaging the two grades together (or a percentage based on the amount of time spent with each teacher). Report card grades are not given for talented services in grades Kindergarten through 8. Performance in the talented area is reported on the Special Education Progress Report Form.

English Language Student Grading

Enduring Understandings

- Students who are acquiring the English language require accommodations and modifications within the classroom, on assessments and on the grading scale that is utilized to record student progress.
- Grades are used to evaluate and record student progress in academic courses.
- The goal of implementing grading guidelines for English Learners is to equitably document student progress towards mastery of discipline concepts and practices while increasing linguistic and academic abilities of students,
- Set students up for success, and give students a positive feeling of achievement if they are working hard in class.

Consider the following LDOE guidance when grading English Learners:

- EL student domain proficiency levels range from 1-5, beginning at the non-verbal and word level, and incrementally progress towards grade level proficiency.
- English Learners who are in classrooms where English is the predominant language.
- Placement of a student in a particular level for grading should be assigned with consideration of the level of domain proficiency, grade level expectations, native language skills, class placement, program structure, and other contributing factors.
- The overlap between proficiency bands exists as students are unique learners and accommodations and support vary based on student need.
- Assigning of grades should be a collaborative effort between the classroom teacher and the English as a Second Language teacher.
- When grading English Learners, consideration should be given to research that suggests retention of students based on language proficiency and academic background can have negative effects on students (Eastern Stream Center on Resources and Training, 1994, p. 26).
- The overall score on the ELPS proficiency Screener should be used to determine a student's initial language proficiency level.
- Domain proficiency scores from the ELPT should be taking into consideration when assigning grades.

In summary, the grading of ELs must reflect what the student knows and is able to do at their level of English language proficiency.

Suggested Grading Table Below

Students at ELPS Proficiency Level 1 (Beginning)*	Students at ELPS Proficiency Level 2-3 (Early Intermediate/ Intermediate)	Students at ELPS Proficiency Level 4-5 (Early Advanced/ Advanced)*
<p>A student is given a passing grade (S) if she or he performs the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is prepared for class with needed materials • Attempts all assigned work as evidenced by: • use of reference materials (dictionary, vocabulary guides, word walls, and/or bilingual dictionary) • attempts as much of an assignment as she/he can • completes portions of assigned and modified work • display attentiveness during instruction and group work • copies notes when required • communicates needs and feelings verbally or non-verbally <p>A student is given a Needs improvement (N) if he or she does not perform the above tasks.</p>	<p>A student is given standard grades based on the current InspireNOLA Grading Policy for modified work.</p> <p>Examples of modified work may include and are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments read aloud • Extended time • Language modifications • Word banks, word walls, vocabulary sheets • Reducing problems or steps due to language complexity • Drawing pictures • Use of graphic organizers <p>Individual grades may also be earned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class participation • Note taking • Use of references and resources • Combination of work samples and student effort 	<p>A student is given standard grades based on the current InspireNOLA Grading Policy compared to those grades earned by his or her peers. Homework and, or classwork assignments may be modified. Testing modifications are made specifically for:</p> <p>1 ½ time given to complete a test</p> <p>Bilingual dictionaries are provided and utilized during the test.</p>
<p>Note, "Pass/Fail grade due to language proficiency" is recorded on the report card.</p>	<p>Note, "Working with ESL test modifications" is recorded on the report card.</p>	<p>Note, "Test modifications limited to 1 ½ time and bilingual dictionary" is recorded on report card.</p>

*If a student falls within two of the categories, a teacher can use his or her judgment to decide which category best fits that student's needs.

Grade Changes

The teacher of record is the only person authorized to change a student's grade. Grade changes must occur within 20 school days of the next semester from when the original grade was issued.

In the event the teacher of record is not available to change grade, the teacher taking the original teacher of record's place or the director of the program (summer school specifically) will complete the grade change form after analyzing the student's submitted work. The grade change form will then be submitted to the school data managers who will make the change in PowerSchool.

Administrators shall not attempt to directly or indirectly influence, alter, or otherwise affect the academic report card grade received by a pupil from his/her classroom teacher. All grade change forms must be kept on file in the student's cumulative folder and a copy given to the student's parent/guardian. In the case where grade change may effect placement, the SATeam must reconvene to make the final determination. The team will document this decision using the promotional determine form and will place the determination in the scholar's cumulative folder.

See Appendix D for Official Grade Change Form.

High School Grade Classification and Course Progression

A student's grade classification is determined by the number of credits he or she has earned by the end of a school year. A student is eligible to earn 1 credit for each class he/she successfully completes each semester.

<i>Freshman</i>	<i>0-5.5 credits</i>
<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>6-12.5 credits</i>
<i>Junior</i>	<i>13-17.5 credits</i>
<i>Senior</i>	<i>4th year student with 18 or more credits</i>

Students who have been reclassified as seniors and are prospective May graduates will change IDs after the first semester of the senior year.

See Appendix E and/or links below for high school course progression:

[LDOE High School Planning Guidebook](#)

Determination of Class Rank

Class rank will be determined by averaging eight semesters of the student's course work which includes any Carnegie unit eligible courses

In order to graduate Valedictorian or Salutatorian, the following requirements must be met:

- fulfill all graduation requirements
- schedule 8 courses in each of the FOUR years of high school
- attend an InspireNOLA school for three years

The student(s) obtaining the highest grade point average will be designated "Valedictorian(s)." The student(s) obtaining the second highest grade point average will be recognized as the "Salutatorian(s)." Concurrent courses and Driver Education will be excluded when computing the grade point average.

Diploma Requirements

Students must pass all necessary components of the End of Course/LEAP 2025 Tests, earn the minimum units of required credits, obtain the necessary credentials required for high school graduation, and meet FAFSA requirements (if applicable). Tests are administered during the state testing window for the following courses: Algebra I, Geometry, English I, English II, English III, Biology, and U.S. History.

A student becomes eligible to graduate at the end of the semester in which he completes his program. Each student shall be advised and counseled concerning the requirements for graduation. The responsibility for scheduling the necessary courses is that of the student and his parents. See appendix for high school course progressions.

Graduating with honors

Students graduating “with honors” will be determined by computing the overall grade point average for each semester course in which the student received a grade during the student’s secondary course studies. The total courses in which a student received a grade will be divided into the total number of quality points which will represent the grade point average. Additional quality points will be granted only for those Advanced Placement and Honors courses in the course offerings of InspireNOLA Schools. The final date for computing grade point average for students graduating “with honors” will be the last senior exam day.

- In order to graduate “with honors”, a student must have at least a 3.3 GPA and achieve a composite score on the ACT of 20 or higher.

Community Service for High School Students

Students enrolled in InspireNOLA high schools are required to complete community service hours. This requirement will provide students with the opportunity to explore their interest, passions, and potential career aspirations in engaged, hands-on environment, and engage in their communities. Students who complete community service hours will earn a Community Service Endorsement Diploma. Students must document community service hours using the Community Service Diploma Endorsement Student Document Form. (This form is available from the school front office.)

Students perform approved community service hours according to the following schedule:

Grade	Minimum Hours
9	10
10	20
11	25
12	25
Total	80

A student who transfers into an InspireNOLA high school after 9th grade or graduates early may receive a community service endorsement if that student: meets the minimum requirements for each year, and completes a total of 80 community service hours by graduation.

Attendance Policy:

Absences

The state of Louisiana requires that all children from their seventh to their eighteenth birthday must attend a public school, private school, or must participate in an approved home study program. Any student above the compulsory attendance age who has excessive absences may be dropped from school with the SBLC (school building level committee) recommendation.

Please note below the Compulsory Attendance Law which all InspireNOLA schools are mandated to follow:

- A. Attendance Requirements –State law and school board policy require that elementary students (K – 8th) be present a minimum of 167 days per year. Secondary students (grades 9 – 12) are required to be present a minimum of 83-85 days per semester. (LA Bulletin 741)
- B. Penalties – Section 221 of Title 17 of the LA Revised Statutes states that the responsibility of a child’s school attendance is placed with the child’s parent or legal guardian. This responsibility includes awakening the child in sufficient time each morning and ensuring that the child, in fact, arrives at school at the appointed time. Any parent, guardian, or tutor found to be in violation of the compulsory school attendance law may be fined not more than two hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) and/or sentenced to thirty (30) days in jail or both. If a child is absent or tardy five (5) days from school, parents and/or child may be referred to the Municipal Court or Families In Need of Services (FINS).

Students are expected to be in school each day. Absent students cannot participate in athletic practices or games. Dated, original notes from a parent or doctor must be submitted to the homeroom teacher within a one-week period (5 business days) following the absence. Only absences that have been verified by the school social worker are considered excused according to state law attendance requirements.

Types of Absences:

1. Excused absences are the following:
 - Personal physical or emotional illness as verified by a state-licensed physician;
 - Extended hospital stay as verified by a state-licensed physician;
 - Extended recuperation from an accident as verified by a state-licensed physician;
 - Observation of a recognized holiday of the student's own faith with documentation provided;
 - Visitation with a parent who is a member of the US Armed forces or National Guard and such parent has been called to duty for or is on leave from deployment to combat (these absences should not exceed 5 days per school year);
 - Travel for educational purposes, including college and university visits, with the approval of the School Leader (Verification of the educational experience must be submitted upon return to school.);
 - Death in the immediate family with documentation (these absences should not exceed 3 days);

Excused absences allow for the student to make up missed assignments and will not be counted against students in determining whether a student meets attendance requirements.

2. Unexcused absences are absences where verifiable documentation is not provided, the note is provided outside of the specified required time, or fail to meet the criteria as excused. These absences count against the student when determining whether the student meets attendance requirements.

*Students attending school-sponsored activities/field trips are considered to be present at school.

LEA assurances and submission information

Assurance is hereby made to the Louisiana Department of Education that this (insert name of LEA) _____ 2020-2021 Pupil Progression Plan has been developed in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. If any local policy outlined in this plan conflicts with federal or state laws or regulations, I understand that federal and state laws and regulations shall supersede the local policy.

Date approved by local school board or governing authority: _____

Superintendent

Board President