

# *Making the Grade*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION STANDARDS

**The first goal of the Howard County Public School System is to ensure each student meets or exceeds rigorous performance and achievement standards.**

To ensure students are prepared for the academic rigors of high school and the Maryland High School Assessments, the Board of Education of Howard County has established the following policy regarding promotion at the middle school level:

“Decisions regarding promotion, retention and acceleration shall be based on a student’s performance and academic progress over the entire school year.”

“When the performance of any middle school student is below grade/curriculum expectations, the teacher and/or grade-level team will, with the knowledge and appropriate participation of parents, develop strategies to improve the student’s achievement.”

Middle school students must meet the following requirements or be considered for retention:

- Pass all courses.
- Receive a final grade of not lower than “C” in English, social studies, reading, math and science.

Any student who is below grade level in reading and/or mathematics at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to enroll in a designated reading and/or mathematics intervention course in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Students with Individualized Education Programs**

- Retention of a diploma-bound special education student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be considered by the IEP team.
- The provisions of this policy do not apply to a certificate-bound special education student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).