2019-2020 Pupil Progression Plan

Local Education Agency:

FirstLine 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 established minimum standards in Bulletin 1566 – Pupil Progression Policies and Procedures. In October 2017, BESE approved, as Notice of Intent, revisions to Bulletin 1566 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, 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 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
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placement of students in kindergarten and grade 1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement of transfer students</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion for students in kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of students in grade 4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and support of students in grade 8 and high school</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>considerations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for students</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and placement of certain student populations</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative education placements</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due process related to student placement and promotion</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional LEA policies related to student placement and promotion</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA assurances and submission information</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. 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.

| There are no additional placement considerations or policies required by FirstLine for the placement of first graders entering school for the first time. | The tools that are used to assess how well the child meets the criteria of passing an academic readiness screener include the STEP assessment, MAP and STAR. The results of the screeners will be used to determine what, if any, intervention the student needs. |
II. 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.

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

- The SBLC will convene to determine a transferring student’s placement.
- A student transferring into a FirstLine Schools site will be placed in the grade to which s/he was assigned at the former school and will be allowed credit for the work completed in the former school should the student’s records support this decision.
- A properly certified transcript, showing a student’s record of attendance, achievement, and immunization and the units of credit earned is used to justify grade placement and credit for the work completed at the former school.
- Upon review of transcript, the SBLC will determine all courses which align with courses offered at FirstLine.
- Credit will be given for coursework in which a student earned a 60% or higher (out-of-state transfers).
- [Credit in elementary classes will be awarded for all subjects in which a student received a passing grade as defined by the former school].

- Students in grade 5 who have not taken the LEAP will take the state’s LEAP placement test.
III. 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.

Promotional Guidelines for Students in Grades K-3, 5-7

Decisions to promote or retain elementary students are based on successful completion of the curriculum as evidenced by mastery of Louisiana Student Standards or Louisiana Grade-Level Expectations (GLE's) and fulfillment of state attendance requirements.

Guidelines for Promotion from Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd
Meets the expectation for required Louisiana Student Standards in reading and math as evidenced on the standards-based report card and has attended a minimum of 60,120 minutes of school.

Guidelines for Promotion from Grades 3,5-7
Attain at least a D in English Language Arts and mathematics as determined by the final report card grades reflecting the student's success at meeting expectations of Louisiana Student Standards;
and attain at least a D in either science or social studies, reflecting meeting expectations of Louisiana GLEs;
and be in attendance for a minimum of 60,120 minutes of school.

**NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: General education and special education teachers will collaborate on determining a grade that reflects a student's progress on his/her IEP goals.

The SBLC will review records of students who do not meet the promotional guidelines outlined above. When state test results are available, the SBLC will also factor these into their considerations. The team will prescribe additional interventions in the summer such as, but not limited to, extended year programs, individual tutoring, and/or group tutoring. By the first day of school for students, the team will determine if the student successfully completed the remediation prescription, is eligible for promotion, and will determine the placement. The SBLC may choose to make a recommendation to continue remediation throughout the school year.
IV. 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:
  
  o 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.

  o 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.

  o The student shall be identified as requiring an academic improvement plan in the state Student Information System (SIS).

  o The student shall be afforded the opportunity to receive grade-level instruction during the summer.

  o 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.

  o 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.

  o 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.

  o 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 SBLC will convene before the school year ends and will use the available data to determine promotion/retention decisions.
Additional considerations for 4th graders include:
Attaining at least a D in English Language Arts and mathematics as determined by the final report card grades reflecting the student’s success at meeting expectations of Louisiana Student Standards;
and attaining at least a D in either science or social studies, reflecting meeting expectations of Louisiana GLEs;
and being in attendance for a minimum of 60,120 minutes of school.

In the space below, please describe written policy pertaining to the development of individual academic improvement plans for 4th graders transitioning to 5th grade.

Individual academic improvement plans may be written prior to state achievement results being available.
IAIPs shall be written with the following committee members:
- the student’s parent or legal custodian, all teachers of core academic subjects, and specialized support personnel, as needed

Each individual’s plan will identify the intervention and support for the student. Options include:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Below Basic in:</th>
<th>Placement in the classroom of a teacher rated “Highly Effective”</th>
<th>Completion of summer remediation that includes curriculum fully aligned to LSS and off grade-level content to no more than 35% of total instructional minutes</th>
<th>Additional instructional time during or outside of the school day</th>
<th>Grade-level instruction that is aligned to LSS, which may include limited below-grade level content and support needed to address the student’s identified weaknesses</th>
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<td>ELA</td>
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<td>Social studies</td>
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IAIPs may be created or amended after state achievement results are available.

Resources for IAPs: Individual Academic Improvement Plan template and parent/legal guardian agreement form
V. Promotion and support of students in grade 8 and high school considerations

a. Promotion 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 subjects 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 spring, following the completion of summer remediation, 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.

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<tr>
<th>Additional considerations for 8th graders include:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attaining at least a D in English Language Arts and mathematics as determined by the final report card grades reflecting the student’s success at meeting expectations of Louisiana Student Standards;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and attaining at least a D in either science or social studies, reflecting meeting expectations of Louisiana GLEs;</td>
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<tr>
<td>and being in attendance for a minimum of 60,120 minutes of school.</td>
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b. High school promotion and transition 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/postsecondary 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:

1. **Complete the FAFSA;** or

2. **Complete the Louisiana TOPS form;** or

3. Certify a waiver in writing to the LEA (sample: non-participation LEA form/Letter); or

4. 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.

**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.**

There are no additional considerations for the promotion of students in Grades 9 and above as FirstLine does not have any high school students.
VI. 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.

Student 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
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.

VII. 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.
It is the job of the IEP team to consider all the evidence when determining placement.

A. Academic Progress
1. Has the child mastered the grade level expectations?
2. What does the summary of test score data indicate?
3. What is the teacher's observation of the child's classroom performance?
4. What does achievement on daily work in basic skills areas indicate?
5. Has the committee ruled out a disability?

B. Social/Emotional Development
1. What is the child's attitude toward school?
2. Describe peer and adult relationships.
3. Describe child's behavior in a school setting.
4. Describe attention span and task commitment.
5. Does the child appear to be confident in school?

C. Physical Development
1. Is the child's gross and fine motor coordination adequate?
2. Is the child physically able to perform expected tasks?
3. Examine health factors.
4. What is the student's age in relationship to other students in the grade level?

D. Attendance
1. Are there gaps in learning due to illness/excessive absences?
2. Was there a change of school or other factors that created learning problems?

E. Alternative Placements/Interventions
1. Has there been a previous alternative grade placement (transition room, developmental kindergarten, or grade level retentions)?
2. What other interventions have been attempted (i.e. RtI programs)?

Students who are identified through the screening process as "limited English proficient (LEP)" will be offered a specialized language program. The results of the screening (or previously administered ELPT results) will influence the student's placement in a program designed to ensure English attainment and academic proficiency in addition to services available to all students. Parents receive notification of the results and subsequent plans for services. If parents/guardians permit services, the student will be placed in the specialized language program.

Regardless of the student's placement in the language program, students identified as
LEP must be placed in an age-appropriate grade level (even if the student enters with no documentation of grade level placement).

The RtI Coordinator works with the classroom teacher and the ESL teacher to design the program of instruction that meets the students’ needs and incorporates the standards from Louisiana’s English Language Proficiency Standards (ELP). The ESL teacher will monitor students' progress. At least once a trimester, the team reconvenes to review the graphs and report that reflects the students’ progress. The team will determine if more (or less) intervention is needed, if additional strategies are needed, or if more professional development for the teachers is necessary. Additionally, the team will review students' progress in their core subjects.

Once results are in from the spring ELPT, the RtI team will use this data to make determinations about student placement in tier 2 or tier 3 interventions as well as determine the effectiveness of their strategies for teaching students the ELP.

Schools in FirstLine use the RtI process to monitor former Limited English Proficient students for two years. Additionally, reviews of student achievement records occur throughout the year to ensure students are accessing the general education curriculum.

VIII. 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.*

The IEP team may recommend placement of students in an alternative program or school.
IX. 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.

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<tr>
<th>Due Process Procedures</th>
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<tr>
<td>The procedure for a teacher, student or parent of a regular education student who wishes to appeal a placement is</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Appeal to the SBLC; if dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Appeal to the CAO (or designee); if still dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Appeal to Orleans Parish School Board or LDOE</td>
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<tr>
<td>The procedure for a teacher, student or parent of a student with disabilities who wishes to appeal a placement is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Appeal to the IEP team; if dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Appeal to the SBLC; if dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Appeal to the CAO (or designee); if still dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Appeal to the Orleans Parish School Board or LDOE</td>
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<tr>
<td>The procedure for a teacher, student or parent of Section 504 students who wishes to appeal a placement is</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Appeal to the SBLC; if dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Appeal to the CAO (or designee); if still dissatisfied with the decision,</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Appeal to the Orleans Parish School Board or LDOE</td>
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X. Additional LEA policies related to student placement and promotion

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

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<tr>
<th>Additional LEA Policies</th>
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XI. LEA assurances and submission information

Assurance is hereby made to the Louisiana Department of Education that FirstLine Schools' 2017-2018 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: 7/1/19

[Signatures]
Superintendent

Board President