

## Overview of the Student Accountability Standards/Gateways

In many instances, the Student Accountability Standards have been called promotion and retention standards, or shared accountability. "Shared accountability" includes teachers, principals, parents, central office staff, and students. The Student Accountability Standards will focus on high-achieving students as well as those who need intensive, quality interventions to reach grade level proficiency. Rather than being seen as a "retention" policy, if properly implemented, the Student Accountability Standards will ensure that every child has the required services and support to perform on grade level.

Students who do not meet the standards will have multiple opportunities for re-testing and more students will receive timely help as soon as they have difficulty with their school work--not at the end of the year when time and options are running out.

What does this mean for North Carolina? It means more students will be at grade level than ever before. More students will have a strong foundation in reading, writing and mathematics. Most important, it means students in North Carolina will have specific expectations for their performance in school, and a pledge that they will receive the instructional support and help they need to reach those expectations.

### The Gateways

<p><b>Gateway 1 – Grade 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective in the 2001-2002 school year.</li> <li>• Meet local promotion requirements.</li> <li>• Demonstrate grade-level proficiency by scoring at Level III or above on the state end-of-grade tests in reading and mathematics.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gateway 2 – Grade 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective in the 2000-2001 school year.</li> <li>• Meet local promotion requirements.</li> <li>• Score at Level III or above on state end-of-grade tests in reading and mathematics.</li> <li>• Score at or above proficiency level 2.5 on the grade 4 writing assessments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gateway 3 – Grade 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective in the 2001-2002 school year.</li> <li>• Meet local promotion requirements.</li> <li>• Score at Level III or above on state end-of-grade tests in reading and mathematics.</li> <li>• Score at or above proficiency level 2.5 on the grade 7 writing assessment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gateway 4 – Grade 12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Effective with the class entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in 2006-2007.</b></li> <li>• Meet existing local and state graduation requirements.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Exit Standards Implementation Guide</a></li> <li>• Successfully complete 20 course units in one of the four courses of study.</li> <li>• Successfully complete a graduation project.</li> <li>• Score at proficiency Level III or above on the end-of-course assessments for English I, U.S. History, Biology, Civics and Economics, and Algebra I.</li> <li>• Demonstrate proficiency on the computer skills test.</li> </ul>