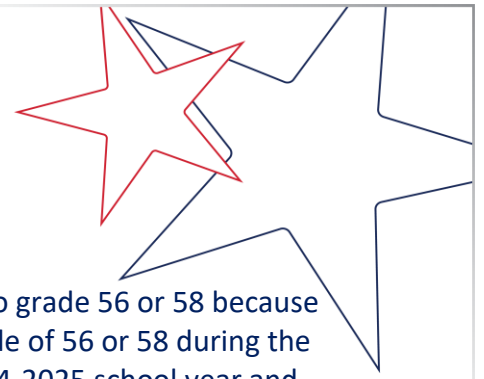


56/58 GUIDANCE



Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, no student may be assigned to grade 56 or 58 because MSIS 2.0 eliminates these grades as an option. Students with a grade code of 56 or 58 during the 2023-2024 school year should be placed in a grade of K5 – 13 for the 2024-2025 school year and subsequent school years. It should be noted previous guidance issued by the Office of Special Education and the Office of Student Assessment stated that only students that meet the criteria for a significant cognitive disability should be assigned a grade code of 56/58.

IEP Committees should determine the appropriate grade placement for any student that has a grade placement of 56/58 to ensure that FAPE is provided. IEP Committees can make the following grade placement determinations for students with a grade placement of 56/58:

- IEP Committees may determine to place students in their peer age grade placement. For example, a student aged 10 on or before September 1, 2024, would be placed in the 5th grade for the 2024-2025 school year.
- IEP Committees may determine that the appropriate grade placement for a student is not the students peer age grade. For example, An IEP Committee may determine that a 6th grade placement is more appropriate for a student that is age 13 whose peer grade 8th grade.

As IEP Committees make grade placement determinations for students, it is important to remember that students with disabilities must participate with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent possible. IEP Committees should consider the unique and individual needs of each student when making grade placement decisions. IEP Committees should also ensure that current, relevant, and reliable data is used to make grade placement determinations to ensure that FAPE is provided in alignment with state, local, and federal policies.

Grade placement determination may impact other areas and the following questions should be considered after an appropriate grade placement determination has been made by the IEP Committee.

- Does the student's grade placement determination impact the student's location of services? For example, will placing a student in his/her peer-age grade move the student from an elementary campus to a middle school campus, or from a middle school campus to a high school campus?
- Does the student's grade placement determination impact the student's state-wide assessment? For example, does the grade placement determination place a student in a grade which he/she has already been assessed OR does the grade placement decision place the student in a grade that causes the student to skip a particular grade level assessment? If so, how may that impact state-wide assessment participation?