

CPS Has New Method of Determining Promotion



By Dr. R. Pletsch

A new method of determining which students will be allowed to pass to the next grade has been announced. I have read several papers that they would not mean the same to everyone, which makes it a successful effort. There is a level of sophistication to understand some of the statistics used.

The elected officials of Illinois have successfully by a stroke of the pen allowed many more students to be promoted to the next grade level. These same politicians, who discussed and argued how closing the schools during the pandemic resulted in loss of skills through non-attendance, worked on this, which appears to be a negotiated settlement. This may be true but people in the field, like in all fields, have the ability to use the language of the subject to make things sound okay -- if as a group they all scored lower, then the results aren't all that bad and their statistical manipulation can make the results look better than they are. These tests are normed with the newer test results and are not compared in general with those that actually attended school all year.

According to how many statistical classes you have had, the more you can read into this subject. With the information that was in the material this is as close as I can get it. This may be oversimplified, but it may be years before a deeper look at this will determine if it has been fair to all. Make your own judgement if it interests you. It is what we will live with in the CPS for the time being.