

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

In accordance with the policy of the Board, promotion and retention decisions shall be made on an individual basis, and shall require the recommendation of each child's teacher(s) and principal. Generally, the student will be promoted when he/she has:

1. successfully completed the requirements of the local course of study and any state-mandated requirements for the currently assigned course or grade level;
2. demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next course or grade level.

In accordance with sound principles of child development and educational research, and believing that the curriculum should offer depth and breadth sufficient to challenge all students, the Board generally discourages skipping grades. The Board acknowledges that retention may be beneficial for some students, especially in the early elementary grades.

Teachers of students in grades K - 5 shall review student progress at midyear (following the issuance of progress reports for the second grading period) to evaluate the possibility or likelihood of a child's retention. Whenever the teacher is inclined to recommend retention, or when test scores indicate that a retention decision will have to be made, the teacher should, in the course of providing appropriate intervention, gather information about the child. That information should include reading grade, mental ability, age, physical maturity, emotional and social development, social issues, home conditions, previous retentions, grade average and proficiency/achievement test scores.

Parents/guardians of 6th - 12th grade students who have failing grades in two or more academic subjects at the end of the first semester are encouraged to discuss their child's progress with teachers during parent-teacher conferences. To pass a course or earn credit for a course, students in grades 6 - 12 must earn an overall passing grade for the year.

If the possibility of retention remains likely at the end of the third grading period, the parents/guardians should be sent written notification and invited to confer with the student's teacher(s) and/or guidance counselors. Information about summer school programs or other appropriate kinds of intervention and assistance should be made available to parents or guardians and agreement sought concerning what course of action would be in the child's best interest.

In the event that the principal decides to retain a student without parent/guardian agreement, the parent/guardian may place a written response in the student's cumulative record. The final decision rests with the school authorities.

[Adoption date: April 17, 2002]

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