

Instruction

**Promotion and Retention**

Regional School District #10 Believes that promotion and retention policies must be appropriate for the grade level of our students. Procedures used for a senior high student are not suitable for a first grader. Not only does the physical development of each student need to be considered, but attention must also be paid to the psychological, social and emotional development of the individual.

In evaluating student achievement, each teacher must make use of all available information, including results of teacher-made tests and other measures of skill and content mastery, standardized test results, and teacher observation of student performance. The student's learning potential and emotional/social status must be taken into consideration.

At the elementary level, if it appears, for example, that a student would profit most by associating with a younger group of children, with fewer pressures toward academic, physical and social achievement, retention may be advisable. Also, if it appears that a child may benefit most by being placed with an older group, advanced grade placement may be considered.

In general, if the need for retention is indicated, it should take place in the primary grades. Above Grade 3, children are occasionally found who can benefit from repeating a grade. At higher grade levels, a combination of many factors may result in the retention of a student.

PROCEDURES

Grades K-5

1. All pupils considered for retention or advanced grade placement must be reviewed with the principal and any other staff necessary to assist in the decision. These members may include the classroom teacher, the reading consultant, school psychologist, and any other personnel assigned by the principal.
2. Candidates for retention or advanced grade placement should be identified and referred no later than April 1 of the current school year, and parents must be notified of the referral.
3. Retention should be regarded as an opportunity that gives the student time to mature or to achieve desired learning goals. Retention must never be used as a threat or punishment.
4. The eligibility for retention or advanced grade placement of a child will be determined after consideration of the following factors:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Chronological Age    | Mental Ability                         |
| Physical Maturity    | Relationship of Achievement to Ability |
| Social Maturity      | Student Attitude                       |
| Parental Discussions |  |

Instruction

**Promotion and Retention**

5. If the principal feels that additional information is required before an appropriate decision can be made, the child may be referred to Special Services for evaluation. The referral procedures will automatically be implemented once this referral is made. Upon completion of the evaluation, a Planning and Placement Team meeting will be conducted, and recommendations for programming, retention, promotion, or advanced grade placement, will be offered.

Grades 6-8

As students enter the secondary level of education a greater variety in the curriculum is available to them. Both required academic courses and elective courses of an enrichment and/or vocational nature are offered. For continued success at this level an adequate academic background is essential. To insure this, a wide range of appropriate groupings is available in required courses. Each student is placed in a course of study that he or she is capable of passing. When needed, remedial help is available.

PROCEDURES

Retention Grade 6

To be promoted to grade 7, a student must pass English, math, and one other major course (science or social studies). If a student fails these required courses, he/she will be promoted only if he/she passes them in an authorized summer program.

Retention in Grade 7

To be promoted to grade 8, a student must pass English, math and one other major course (science or social studies). If a student fails these required courses, he/she will be promoted only if he/she passes them in an authorized summer program.

Retention in Grade 8

To be promoted to grade 9, a student must pass English, math, and one other major course (science or social studies). If a student fails these required courses, he/she will be promoted only if he/she passes them in an authorized summer program.

Retention Grade 9-12

At the high school level, grade-level placement and graduation are related to the accumulation of credits earned by students as well as the number of English courses passed. Students who are deficient in either situation will be retained in the previous year's homeroom.

Instruction

**Promotion and Retention**

PROCEDURES

In order to be promoted to Grade:

10

11

12

Students must:

earn 17 credits (4 ½ units)\*

earn 34 credits (9 ½ units)\*\*

be eligible as a candidate for graduation

\* 4 credits (or 1 unit) must be in English

\*\* 8 credits (or 2 units) must be in English

In order to graduate, students must earn sufficient credits as outlined in Administrative Policy 6146A.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

Parents may appeal a decision of the principal. If the parents do not agree with the principal's decision for promotion or retention, they will indicate their disapproval in writing. If the principal does not agree with the parents' position, the matter will be referred to the Superintendent of Schools.

Policy adopted: July 1985  
Policy revised: August 1997