

Series 5000 – Students

1. Elementary and Secondary

B. Progress/Records

(3) Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

Definitions

~~Promotion—Students shall be promoted on the basis of academic achievement. Students who, on the basis of objective measures of academic standards, can reasonably be expected to meet the instructional learning objectives at the next educational level may be promoted.~~

~~Acceleration—In very unusual cases, students may be accelerated one grade. Such decisions shall take into consideration such factors as achievement level and social and physical maturity.~~

~~Retention in Grade—Schools shall identify students in danger of failing or being at risk for retention. Prior to deciding on retention for a student not meeting grade level standards, the district shall provide and may require the student to attend one or more alternatives for remedial assistance. Students will only be retained on the basis of what is best for each student after careful study and consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s).~~

Academic placement and subsequent promotion shall be determined by academic performance and social and emotional maturity. The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents and guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on the statewide testing program and on other district assessments, meeting statewide reading standards in the primary grades, academic potential and student aptitude.

When high academic achievement is evident, the Superintendent or his/her designee may approve a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

Retention is a very significant measure that should be the result of the combined professional judgement of the school principal, teachers, guidance counselor and/or other support personnel. Prior notification and explanation to each student's parents and/or guardian regarding his/her risk for retention shall be given by the principal or his/her designee no later than April 1. The final decision will rest with the school authorities.

~~Students shall be placed by the certified staff at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally. The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop regulations for promotion, acceleration and retention in the best interest of the long term development of the child.~~

The district shall provide alternatives to retention such as, but not limited to supplemental instructional services that may require students whose academic performance jeopardizes their promotion or graduation to attend programs during school, after school, or in the summer to remediate an academic deficiency. The administration shall determine additional remediation for a student who is not promoted.

The primary factors in determining promotion or retention in grades K-8 are student achievement and student readiness for work at the next grade level. Considerations will include:

- 1) Current academic standing,
- 2) Chronological age,
- 3) Physical, social and emotional maturity,
- 4) Relationship of achievement to ability,
- 5) Potential for remediation, and
- 6) Assessment of student progress.

For students in grade 9-12, successful completion of the number of required credits as determined by the Board shall determine promotion to the next grade and/or graduation. These credits shall include all courses mandated by state law and those additional credits or conditions established by the Board.

~~Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade or level to level. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the certified staff, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the students involved. Exceptions will always be made after prior notification and explanation to each student's parents or guardian, but the final decision will rest with the school authorities.~~

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221(b) Boards of Education to prescribe rules
10-223a Promotion and graduation policies. Basic skills necessary for graduation, assessment process

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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut