

District Policy

5410- PROMOTION AND RETENTION (M)

Section: Students

Date Created: June, 2008

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The Board of Education recognizes that each child develops and grows in a unique pattern and that pupils should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their social, physical, and educational needs. Each pupil enrolled in this district shall be moved forward in a continuous program of learning in harmony with his/her own development.

Standards for pupil promotion shall be related to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and district goals and objectives and to the accomplishments of pupils. A pupil in the elementary grades will be promoted to the next succeeding grade level when he/she has completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade; has achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade; has demonstrated the proficiencies required for movement into the educational program of the next grade; and has demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.

Promotion policies and procedures will be provided to parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as appropriate. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and pupils shall be regularly informed during the school year of the pupil's progress toward meeting promotion standards. A teacher who determines that a pupil's progress may not be sufficient to meet promotion standards shall notify the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the pupil and offer immediate consultation to the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Every effort shall be made to remediate a pupil's deficiencies before retention is recommended. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and, where appropriate, the pupil shall be notified of the possibility of the pupil's retention at grade level in advance and, whenever feasible, no later than April 15.

School attendance shall be a factor in the determination of a pupil's promotion or retention. Only extenuating circumstances should permit the promotion of a pupil who has been in attendance fewer than one hundred sixty days during the school year.

A waiver of these attendance requirements may be granted for good cause by the school Principal upon recommendation of a review committee, appointed by him/her, and consisting of representative staff, including pupil service personnel and classroom teachers. In recommending the granting of a waiver of this attendance requirement, the review committee shall consider the nature and causes of all absences rather than only those in excess of the twenty days. Documentation of the nature and causes of these absences shall be the responsibility of the pupil and parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Classroom teachers shall recommend to the Building Principal the promotion or retention of each pupil. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and adult pupils may appeal a promotion or retention decision to the Superintendent whose decision shall be final.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9

Adopted: 16 June 2008