

STUDENTS

PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION

Regional School District 13 is dedicated to the continuous development of each student enrolled from school entrance through graduation. The certified staff shall place students at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally. 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 only be made after prior discussion with parents or guardians. The final decision will rest with the school principal.

Steps must be taken to ensure that all students make appropriate academic progress at each grade level. Students who have mastered the District's instructional objectives at a grade level and who demonstrate readiness for work at the next grade level shall be promoted. Students who have not mastered the District's instructional objectives at a grade level and/or have not demonstrated readiness for work at the next grade level shall be considered for retention. No student will be promoted because of age or other social reasons not related to academic performance.

The District shall utilize multiple measures of academic performance indicators as determinants in promotion/retention decisions. Assessment of student performance shall be based upon and aligned with District standards. Student evaluation shall be fair, consistent, and appropriate to program goals. The assessment program shall include, but not be limited to, the use of standardized and teacher-made tests, progress report criteria, projects, portfolios, teacher observation, and performance on the Connecticut Mastery Test.

Using the above measures, schools shall identify students at risk for retention. Prior to deciding on retention for a student not mastering the appropriate skills, the District shall provide and may require the student to attend one or more options for remedial assistance, including but not limited to Title I, remedial reading, or special education services. Students failing to make satisfactory academic progress despite such remedial assistance shall be considered for alternatives to promotion. Such alternatives may include:

- attendance at District summer school
- retention

Consideration of retention for a student shall be based on academic performance. Students exhibiting academic difficulties shall be referred to the school's Student Assistance Team, and an intervention plan shall be developed and implemented. Once retention is being considered because of lack of satisfactory academic progress despite appropriate interventions, the following criteria shall be applied to assist in making the decision:

- academic aptitude
- chronological age
- social and emotional maturity
- physical maturity
- attendance
- prediction for success at the next grade level

A written plan shall be developed for any student repeating a grade level. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, remedial or special education services, instructional modifications tailored to the student's learning style, and regular review of the student's progress by the Student Assistance Team. A conference shall be held in November to review the student's progress with parents.

When retention is being considered for students in kindergarten through grade 8, the following procedures shall be implemented:

- Parents shall be notified that retention is being considered no later than March 30. Students entering District 13 after January 1 may be considered for retention at any time prior to the end of the school year.
- A conference shall be held with parents and appropriate school personnel, including members of the Student Assistance Team.
- A plan shall be developed for monitoring the student's progress for the remainder of the school year.
- The final decision regarding retention shall be made by the school in collaboration with the parents.
- A student being considered for retention may be required to attend District summer school, with the retention decision postponed until a review of the student's academic standing upon completion of the summer program.

No student shall be retained unless retention has a reasonable chance of benefiting the child.

Additional Promotion Procedures: High School

In addition to the policies and procedures outlined in the first page of this document, the following promotional procedures apply at grades 9-12:

High school students shall be classified by grade level based on credits earned as follows: *

- To grade 9: successful completion of grade 8
- To grade 10: 5.5 credits
- To grade 11: 12 credits
- To grade 12: 19 credits

- Graduation: 26 credits (or the designated number under the phase in process) including required courses as outlined in the high school program of studies

* Credit requirements may be reduced as a result of medical exemption from physical education.

Acceleration

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.

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