

## Policy — 2421

### Instruction

#### Promotion/Retention

The board recognizes that the rate of physical, social, emotional and academic growth will vary among individual students. Since each student grows at his/her own rate, these individual growth characteristics shall be recognized in classroom programming.

After a student has successfully completed a year of study at a specific grade level, he/she will normally be promoted to the next grade. Retention at the same grade may be beneficial to the student when he/she is not demonstrating minimum competency in basic skill subjects in relation to ability and grade level. Retention should not be considered, except in these instances where there is a strong likelihood that the student will benefit with minimum social and emotional disruption.

Parents should be regularly informed about academic problems and should be advised as early as possible if retention is considered a possibility. A recommendation for retention should not come as a surprise to parents. Principals shall establish procedures which provide that parents will be informed at least one (1) quarter in advance of any retention decision on the part of the school.

At the high school, students are required to have earned a specific number of credits to be considered a member of a class. That number will be established by the principal and staff and published in the school's handbook.

At the elementary, middle or junior high school school, retention will result only after a conference or conferences between the parent and the school staff. At that conference, the staff will present their recommendations. The parent may agree or disagree. If the parent disagrees with a recommendation for retention, the student may be advanced to the next grade, but only if the parent agrees to the conditions of a written contract, outlining mutual expectations for the performance of the student in the subsequent year. That contract may provide promotion for a fixed trial period and reconsideration/retention if expectations are not met; it may provide that a subsequent year recommendation for retention based on further failure will be implemented without recourse;and/or it may include other decisions and considerations to assist in clarifying the positions of the school and the parent. The intent of this policy is to allow parents to delay or modify retention recommendations while also clearly providing that the professional staff's responsibilities to act on behalf of the welfare of students is not abrogated.

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