

STUDENTS

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

It is the policy of the Board of Education that all students should be placed in instructional programs in which they can achieve academically, emotionally, and socially. The Board is dedicated to minimizing the incidence of social promotion and ensuring that students are promoted from grade to grade based upon objective criteria that recognize the individual needs of the student.

It is expected that the vast majority of students will progress satisfactorily through their elementary and secondary school programs with similarly-aged peers. Some students may require individual attention and supplemental services to realize their potential. Students who have substantial academic deficiencies may be required to attend after school programs, summer school or other transition programs offered by the school district that are designed to assist students in remedying such deficiencies. In certain situations, it may be in the best interests of the student to spend an additional year at a particular grade level.

The following criteria shall be used to determine the appropriateness of a student's promotion to the next grade level:

1. Academic achievement in all subject areas, especially the basic skill areas of reading, writing, and mathematics as revealed by tests and teacher assessment
2. Emotional maturity
3. Social maturity
4. Relative chronological age
5. Relative physical size
6. Learning ability as determined by tests and teacher assessment
7. Work and study habits
8. Attendance record
9. Teaching situations into which the student will be placed
10. Placement of siblings
11. Parent or guardian opinion toward retention or promotion
12. Other relevant factors that impact the student's school experience and ability to progress satisfactorily

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that teachers, parents and students are made aware of the criteria that the school district uses in making decisions about student promotion and retention. The Superintendent shall also ensure that each school has a reliable system of informing parents and guardians in a timely manner of a student's risk of retention. The ultimate decision regarding student grade placement shall be made by the school administration in consultation with a student's parent or guardian.

Legal reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

10-223a Promotion and graduation policies. Basic skills necessary for graduation, assessment process