

STUDENTS

Series 500

Policy Title Student Promotion - Retention - Acceleration

Code No. 505.02

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

The district shall adhere to the following:

- Retention/Promotion in kindergarten – eighth grade: The retention of a student will be determined based upon the judgment of the district's professional staff. When it becomes evident a student in grades kindergarten through eight may be retained in a grade level for an additional year, the parents will be informed prior to making the retention decision. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- Retention/Promotion in ninth – twelfth grade: Students in grades nine through twelve will be informed of the required coursework necessary to be promoted each year. When it becomes evident a student in these grades will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, the student and parents will be informed. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade: Students in grades kindergarten through twelve with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements.
- Retention or Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade may also occur in additional instances as provided by law.

Any student or parent who is not satisfied with the decision of the district's professional staff may seek recourse through policy 502.4 – Student Complaints and Grievances.

NOTE: School districts that use specific steps or processes for determining retention or acceleration should reference the applicable criteria or where to locate the criteria in the bulleted information above.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 279.8.
281 I.A.C. 12.3(7), 12.5(16).

Cross Reference: 410.02 Summer School Licensed Employees
501.00 Student Attendance
505.00 Student Scholastic Achievement
603.02 Summer School Instruction

RETENTION

When it becomes evident that a student in grades 6-8 may be retained due to poor academic performance or behavior problems, the parent will be notified prior to February 1. A conference with the

parent will be held prior to February 15. Present at the conference will be the building principal, at least one classroom teacher, parent(s), AEA staff and others as designated by the AEA, principal or parents.

The purpose for the conference will be to identify strategies that will promote a more diligent approach toward school expectations on behalf of the student; to notify the parent that if behavior and/or academic performance does not improve, the student may be retained; to design strategies that will, if followed, enable the student to progress; and to provide support for the parent in working with the student and school.

A second conference with the parent will be held prior to April 1 to review the student's progress.

A recommendation to retain will be made to the Board of Education prior to May 15. This board decision will be forwarded to the parent.

Upon receipt of the decision to retain, the parent may appeal the decision to the AEA administration within ten (10) calendar days.

The board will be notified when conditions are present that may lead to a recommendation to retain. This notification shall occur after the first conference with the parent or about February 15.

Approved: August 19, 2024

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