

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Series 500

POLICY TITLE STUDENT PROMOTION-RETENTION-ACCELERATION

No. 505.2

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

The district shall adhere to the following:

- **Retention/Promotion in kindergarten – eighth grade:** The retention/promotion 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/guardians 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. It is within the sole discretion of the district to promote a student to the next grade level.
- **Retention/Promotion in ninth – twelfth grade:** Students in grades nine through twelve will be informed of the required course work 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/guardians 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. It is within the sole discretion of the district to promote a student to the next grade level.
- **Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade:** Students in grades kindergarten through twelve with data indicating the need may, with the permission of the appropriate district personnel, take classes beyond their current grade level. It is within the sole discretion of the district to accelerate a student in a single content subject or to the next grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements and/or current, stated handbook regulations.
- **Retention or Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade** may also occur in additional instances as provided by law.

For students in grades kindergarten through sixth, if a student is not reading at a proficient level, the district will notify a student's parent or guardian of the student's reading level, and the option for parents to request that the student be retained in the student's current grade level for the subsequent school year. The district is prohibited from promoting a student to the next grade level if the student is not reading proficiently, and the student's parent or guardian requests the student be retained at their current grade level for the next year.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .41; 279.8; .68.
281 I.A.C. 12.5(16).

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance
505 Student Scholastic Achievement
603.2 Summer School Instruction

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