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513 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION AND PROGRAM DESIGN

a. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents and students regarding student promotion, retention, acceleration, program design and grade placement.

b. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board expects all students to achieve at an acceptable level of proficiency. Parental assistance, tutorial and remedial programs, counseling and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and utilized to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

A. Promotion

Students who achieve at levels deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of each school year.

B. Retention

Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and/or parents have evidence that it is in the best interest of the student. Physical development, maturity, and emotional factors shall be considered as well as scholastic achievement. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

C. Program Design

- 1. The superintendent and/or designees, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs and services to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A process to assess and evaluate students for program assignment shall be developed in coordination with such programs. Opportunities for special programs including placement outside of the school district shall also be developed as additional options. All programs will be aligned with creating comprehensive achievement and civic readiness and the District 191 Strategic Roadmap.
- 2. The school district may identify students, locally develop programs and services addressing instructional and affective needs, provide staff development, and evaluate programs to provide gifted and talented students with challenging and appropriate educational programs and services.

- 3. The school district must adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs and services consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11. The guidelines should include the use of:
 - a. multiple objective criteria; and
 - b. assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair, and based on current theory and research. Assessments and procedures should be designed to eliminate disproportionality in identification and services sensitive to under-presented groups, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, eligibility for economic assistance, twice exceptional, and English language proficiency.
- 4. The school district must adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. These procedures will include how the school district will:
 - a. assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and
 - b. match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.
- 5. The school district must adopt procedures consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.02 for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted or talented learners consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.11, subdivision 2, clause (2). The procedures must be sensitive to under-represented groups.

Legal References: Minn. Stat § 120B.11 (School District Process for Reviewing Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement Goals: Striving for Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness)

Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented Program)

Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendents)

Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 (School Board Powers; Enrollment)

Cross References: Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 613 (Graduation Requirements)

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 614 (School District Assessment Program)

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 615 (Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students)

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District Policy 620 (Credit for Learning)