

## 5410 - PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the personal, social, physical, and educational growth of children will vary and that they should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs at the various stages of their growth.

It shall be the policy of the Board that each student be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement ~~and growth that is in harmony with his/her own development.~~ **when a student successfully completes the previous school year.**

A student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when they have:

- A. completed the course requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- B. in the opinion of the professional staff, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade;
- C. demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit them to move ahead in the educational program of the next grade;
- D. ~~demonstrated the degree of social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for a successful learning experience in the next grade.~~

A student enrolled in special education shall be promoted or retained based on the opinion of the Case Conference Committee and the student's I.E.P.

It is the policy of the Board that a student shall not be retained or held back in a grade level for the sole purpose of improving the student's ability to participate in extra-curricular athletic programs.

Skipping of grades is a rarely warranted phenomenon in the Zionsville Community Schools Corporation.

The Board will comply with the requirements of the Indiana Department of Education regarding the consequences for students in grade three who fail to pass the Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination Assessment (IREAD-3). Accordingly, a student who does not pass the IREAD-3 assessment either during the assessment period in the school year or during the summer assessment window ~~in the following school year, will continue to receive instruction in grade three reading, will be officially reported as a third grader, and will fully participate in the grade three ISTEP+ assessment.~~ **will be retained in third grade unless they meet one of the below criteria leading to a Good Cause Exemption (GCE):**

- A) **Special Education:** The student's individualized education plan specifies that retention is not appropriate, and the student's case conference committee has determined that promotion to the next grade is appropriate.
- B) **English Learner:** A student who is an identified multi-lingual learner (ML) who has received services for fewer than two years, has an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) and the case conference committee determines promotion to the next grade level is appropriate.
- C) **Math Exceptionality:** A student who passes the ILEARN Mathematics assessment.
- D) **Retained Twice and Received Intense Intervention:** A student who has been retained twice in K-2 and has already received intensive intervention in reading for at least two years.
- E) **Previously Retained in Grade Three:** A student who was subject to retention and has been retained in grade 3 for one school year.

#### **Opportunity for Appeal:**

**Parents/guardians may appeal the retention decision in the case of failure to pass IREAD-3 if they believe that their child qualifies for one of the exceptions identified above. Appeals should be sent addressed to the Director of Academic Services before the first day of school.**

~~Good cause exemptions that may be considered are:~~

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~~A. a student who has been previously retained two times prior to the fourth grade;~~

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~~B. a student with disabilities whose case conference committee has determined that promotion is appropriate;~~

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~~C. an English learner student whose Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Committee has determined that promotion is appropriate.~~

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for promotion, placement, and retention of students which:

- A. require the recommendation of the professional staff for any promotion, placement, or retention;
- B. require that parents are informed in advance of the possibility of retention of a student at a grade level;
- C. assure that reasonable efforts be made to remediate the student's difficulties before they are retained;
- D. assign to the principal the final responsibility for determining the promotion, placement, or retention of each student.

~~Technical Correction 6/11/12~~

~~Revised 9/10/12~~

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