

POLICY 4040

Grade Level ~~Acceleration~~/Retention of Students

- A. The District discourages grade level ~~acceleration~~/retention (~~a student repeating a grade~~) of students based on research. Research supports intervention and extension of instruction to address the individual educational needs of students. Every effort will be made to assure that students move through the school system in a continuous manner. Teachers will plan instruction to meet the individual needs of students, based upon assessment data.
- B. Grade ~~acceleration~~/retention will only be considered by the District subsequent to a parent/teacher(s) and parent/administrator meeting creating a minimum six-week education plan to address the intervention or extensions for the student. Grade level ~~acceleration~~/retention of a student must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning in a meeting where all considerations are reviewed. Meetings to consider grade level ~~acceleration~~/retention will only be held during the months of June, July, or in August (prior to back-to-school night or registration).
- C. If a parent requests ~~acceleration or~~ retention of a student, which will place that student in a learning environment other than with ~~same-age~~ peers ~~of the same age~~, a meeting will be held ~~at the District Office~~. For students enrolled in kindergarten (under the age of 6 years old), the team meeting will be held at the student's school. For students enrolled in grades 1-8, the team meeting will be held at the District Office. A team will be formed to consider a decision based on the following criteria:
1. Student achievement data
 - a. End of Year State Assessment: CogAT, RISE, Acadience, ~~Aspire Plus~~, MAP
 - b. RTI plans, referrals for special education, IEPs, BIPs
 2. Student attendance
 3. Teacher information and observations
 4. Parent information and observations
 5. Research based best practices.

6. Social, emotional, and developmental needs of the student
7. Opportunity for participation in intervention programs
8. Potential impact on Special Education placement and service

D. The team will include:

1. A building level administrator
2. A District Office representative
3. A parent
4. The student if appropriate
5. The student's teacher(s), if appropriate
6. The school counselor, if appropriate

E. Approval of grade level ~~acceleration~~/retention may be granted or denied by the Superintendent or designee. Parents have the right to appeal any recommendation through the process outlined in [Policy 5350 Student Complaints - Resolution](#). Within six weeks of placement, any member of the team may request a conference to repeal the student's placement.