

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education  
Members

**DATE:** November 19, 2024

**NUMBER:** 25-032

**FR:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Proposed  
Revisions to BP 5123  
Promotion/Acceleration/Re  
tention; First Reading

### **STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:**

Track 1: Operational Improvements  
*Initiative: Optimize Business Practices*

### **ABSTRACT:**

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

### **ISSUE:**

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5123  
Promotion/Acceleration/Retention and open for public comments.

### **BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention within the Students series.

This update revises the policy to reflect the student retention procedures required by the Alaska Reads Act.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5123 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

### **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention as presented and open for public comments.

## **BP 5123 PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION**

The School Board desires to see students progress with their peers through the school system's-district's grade levels. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual children and include strategies for providing extra attention or assistance when needed.

### **Promotion**

Students shall progress through the school system's-district's grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning the required basic skills.

Progress toward high school graduation shall be based on the student's ability to pass the subjects and electives necessary to earn the required number of credits.

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6146.5 - Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs)*

### **Acceleration**

Acceleration is possible when high academic achievement is evident. However, the student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration before placing him/her in a higher grade.

### **Retention**

The School Board recognizes that research indicates that very few children benefit from being retained during the elementary and middle grades. The Superintendent or designee shall promote alternatives to retention among certificated staff.

Note: Strategies for reducing retention rates may include reading intervention programs, tutorial programs, and the use of ungraded schools, combination classes, year-round education, and developmentally appropriate primary curriculum designed to meet the needs of children at their own developmental stage.

Note: The following paragraph requires the use of a student intervention team when retention is recommended.

When a teacher believes that retention is necessary to meet a student's needs, he/she shall ask the site administrator to establish a student intervention team to consider the child's academic, social and emotional performance. The student's parent/guardian shall be invited to participate on the student intervention team.

Retention may be considered when the student has not acquired appropriate and necessary skills and knowledge. Alternatives to retention shall be considered.

Under the Alaska Reads Act, a student retained due to a reading deficiency must be provided the process set forth in BP 6147 and AS 14.30.765(d) – (m).

*(cf. 5121 - Assessment/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*

*(cf. 6141 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation)*

~~*(cf. 6164.5 - Intervention/Assistance Teams)*~~

*(cf. 6147 – Alaska Reads Act Intervention Programs)*

*Legal Reference:*

*ALASKA STATUTES*

*AS 14.30.760 Statewide screening and support*

*AS 14.30.765 Reading intervention services and strategies; progression*

*ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE*

*4 AAC 06.400 Statewide literacy screening and support*

*4 AAC 06.405 Reading intervention services and strategies*

*4 AAC 06.410 Individual reading improvement plan*

*4 AAC 06.415 Student Progression*

*4 AAC 06.490 Definitions*

*Adopted: July 25, 2006*

*Revised:*

**Northwest Arctic Borough School District**