

## **Students**

### **Promotion/Acceleration/Retention**

The Board of Education is dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled in its schools. Therefore, the district will establish and maintain high standards for each grade and monitor student performance in a continuous and systematic manner. The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Successful completion of the curriculum,
2. Attendance,
3. Performance on the statewide testing program,
4. Other standardized tests,
5. Statewide reading standards in the primary grades,
6. Maturity, and
7. Academic potential.

A student shall not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance. The district shall provide alternatives to promotion such as, but not limited to transition programs and may require students whose academic performance jeopardizes their promotion or graduation to attend after school, summer school or other programs the district offers that are designed to help them. The administration shall determine remedial assistance for a student who is not promoted.

The Board of Education shall approve the grading and reporting systems as developed by the administration and faculty upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Board desires to eliminate the practice of promoting students to the next grade level for social reasons even though they are failing academically. The Board expects students to progress through each grade, usually one grade per school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual students and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed. Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards. The student's readiness for work at the next grade level shall be required before he/she is promoted. Students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted; those who have not will be recommended by the Principal to the student support team for retention.

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### **Promotion/Acceleration/Retention (continued)**

Retention, nor social promotion, is considered an adequate response to student underachievement. Neither requires change in pedagogy, content or curriculum. Appropriate steps must be taken to ensure that students learn what they need to know to be successful. The district must consistently address the underlying reasons for student failure to achieve and what changes in school organization, curriculum, instruction and educational programs are necessary for students to succeed.

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

In cases where students display extraordinary academic achievement, the Superintendent or his/her designee may approve a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. All incidents of acceleration will be reported to the Board of Education following the action.

Schools shall identify students in danger of failing and being at risk for retention. This identification shall also include those students who fail to meet the remedial standards of the SBAC statewide assessment programs. Prior to deciding on retention for a student not mastering the appropriate skills, the district may require the student to receive supplemental or remedial instruction to assist the student in overcoming his/her academic deficiencies. Opportunities may include but are not limited to, after-school tutorial programs, Saturday tutorial programs, summer school, instruction during school vacations, or during weekend programs, cross-age tutoring or student mentoring.

In all cases of promotion or retention, the parent/guardian is to be fully involved and informed throughout the promotion/retention decision making process. Parents will be notified as early as possible that retention is being considered and except in very unusual circumstances, no later than March 31. In all cases where retention is being considered, for a student in Grades Pre Kindergarten through 8, the student will be referred to the school's child study team; the Superintendent will notify the Board of Education in April of each year of the students at risk for retention. Promotion at the high school will be determined by credit accumulation per Board of Education Regulation 5123. At the end of each school year, the Superintendent will report to the Board of Education the number of students not achieving the required number of credits to advance to the next grade level. The final decision on retention shall be made by the principal in consultation with classroom teachers, the student support team and the parent/guardian.

## **Students**

### **Promotion/Acceleration/Retention (continued)**

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 99-288 An Act Concerning Education Accountability

10-221(b) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-265g Summer reading programs required for priority school districts. Evaluation of student reading level. Personal reading plans. (as amended by PA 01-173 and PA 06-135)

10-265I Requirements for additional instruction for poor performing students in priority school districts; exemption. Summer school required; exemption (as amended by PA 99-288, PA 01-173, PA 03-174 and PA 06-135)

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PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
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