

PROMOTION, RETENTION, AND ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS

It is the Board's intent to provide sequential instructional programming that provides equitable opportunity for students to learn the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet the content standards of Maine's system of learning results, including the parameters for essential instruction, at each grade level. The Board recognizes that at every grade level, there are differences among students in their intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development and that individual students may be more proficient in some content areas of the system of learning results and parameters for essential instruction than in others.

While most students will advance from one grade to another at the end of the academic year, some students may benefit from retention or acceleration. Assignment of a student to a grade level or decisions concerning promotion, retention, or acceleration of a student should be consistent with the best educational interest of that student.

A. Promotion and Acceleration

The following criteria will be used in making decisions concerning promotion, retention and acceleration. Although all listed criteria may be considered in the decision-making process, because of the relationship between a student's achievement of the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction and his/her future success in school, more consideration shall be given to the criterion articulated in paragraph Criterion 1 below than to any other factors.

1. Achievement of the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction as demonstrated through classroom assessments, common assessments, standardized tests, and other elements of the local assessment system;
2. Potential for success if accelerated;
3. Attendance;
4. Social and emotional maturity;
5. Health;
6. Age in relation to grade placement;
7. Program options;
8. Student attitude; and

9. Parental concerns.

Decisions regarding acceleration shall be made by the principal in consultation with the student's teacher(s), the designated administrator of the District's Gifted and Talented program and other staff or consultants, as appropriate. A parent who is dissatisfied with the principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

B. Retention

The following criteria will be used in making decisions concerning retention of students. Although all listed criteria may be considered in the decision making process, because of the relationship between a student's achievement of the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction and his/her future success in school, primary consideration will be given to Criterion 1 as set forth below. Only after Criterion 1 has been applied will other factors be considered.

1. Achievement of the content standards of the parameters for essential instruction as demonstrated through classroom assessments, common assessments, standardized tests, and other elements of the local assessment system;
2. Participation and success in remedial programs, tutoring, summer school, and/or other RSU 68-offered efforts at interventions;
3. Potential benefit from repetition of a grade or learning experience;
4. Attendance;
5. Social and emotional maturity;
6. Health;
7. Age in relation to grade placement;
8. Program options;
9. Attitude; and
10. Parental concerns.

Parents should be notified as early as possible that a student is failing to meet academic expectations and that retention is being considered. Parents will be informed of the remediation options available to students such as tutoring, after-school programs, and summer school.

Decisions regarding acceleration shall be made by the principal in consultation with the student's parent(s), teacher(s) and other professional staff or consultants, as appropriate. Advancement to the next grade may be made conditional on successful remediation or demonstrated proficiency within a specified period of time.

A parent who is dissatisfied with the principal's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

C. Transfer Students

For students who transfer into the school system from another state or educational program not required to meet the content standards of the system of Learning Results, the principal will determine the value of the student's prior educational experience for the purpose of grade placement or the fulfillment of credits.

Legal Reference: Ch. 127 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: IK – Student Achievement
IKAB – Report Cards/Progress Reports
ILA – Student Assessment

Adopted: May 7, 2013