

Students

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

It is the policy of the Board of Education that all students should be placed in instructional programs in which they can achieve academically, emotionally, and socially. The Board is dedicated to minimizing the incidence of social promotion and ensuring that students are promoted from grade to grade based upon objective criteria that recognize the individual needs of the student. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based upon successful completion of grade-level requirements, with appropriate consideration being given to the mental, physical, emotional and social maturity of the student. When high academic achievement is evident, the Superintendent or designee may approve a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

It is expected that the vast majority of students will progress satisfactorily through their elementary and secondary school programs with similarly-aged peers. Some students may require individual attention and supplemental services to realize their potential. 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 statewide standardized or mastery assessments. Prior to deciding on retention for a student not mastering the appropriate skills, the district shall provide and may require the student to attend one or more alternatives for remedial assistance. Students who have substantial academic deficiencies may be required to attend after school tutorial programs, Saturday tutorial programs, summer school, instruction during school vacations or during week-end programs, cross-age tutoring, student mentoring or any other programs offered by the school district that are designed to assist students in remedying such deficiencies. In certain situations, it may be in the best interests of the student to spend an additional year at a particular grade level.

The following criteria shall be used to determine the appropriateness of a student's promotion to the next grade level:

1. Academic achievement in all subject areas, especially the basic skill areas of reading, writing, and mathematics as revealed by tests and teacher assessment
2. Emotional maturity
3. Social maturity
4. Relative chronological age
5. Relative physical size
6. Learning ability as determined by tests and teacher assessment
7. Work and study habits
8. Attendance record
9. Teaching situations into which the student will be placed

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Promotion/Acceleration/Retention (continued)

10. Placement of siblings
11. Parent or guardian opinion toward retention or promotion
12. Other relevant factors that impact the student's school experience and ability to progress satisfactorily

The Superintendent of Schools shall ensure that teachers, parents and students are made aware of the criteria that the school district uses in making decisions about student promotion and retention. The Superintendent shall also ensure that each school has a reliable system of informing parents and guardians in a timely manner of a student's risk of 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 15. Grade placement shall be the Principal's responsibility. In the event that a parent/guardian is in disagreement with the Principal's decision, the parent/guardian may request a review of the decision by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. The decision of the Superintendent or designee shall be final.

Legal reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.

10-223a Promotion and graduation policies. Basic skills necessary for graduation, assessment process

Policy adopted: June 12, 2001
 Policy revised: June 12, 2007
 Policy revised: June 8, 2010
 Policy revised: June 9, 2015

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 New Milford, Connecticut