

PROMOTION / RETENTION / ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS

Background

Students will normally be promoted from one grade level to the next on an annual basis. Parents will be notified if the Principal, in consultation with the student's teacher(s) determines that a student would benefit from spending more time in a particular grade level or accelerating to a more advanced program (e.g. grade-skipping and subject-based acceleration). Decisions such as these involve matching the level and complexity of curriculum with the readiness and motivation of the student. Research during the past century would suggest that, in most cases, grade retention is ineffective and potentially harmful. There must be compelling evidence to support why retention would help a particular student more than promotion to the next grade. Research also provides evidence of the benefits of alternative educational interventions to promote the cognitive and social competence of students.

Procedures

1. The Principal will supervise the evaluation and advancement of students. The Principal, along with the student's teacher(s), will exercise their best professional judgment regarding a student's academic performance, maturity, social dynamics and other factors considered relevant when recommending retention, promotion or acceleration.
2. Parents will receive sufficient advance notice by the second reporting period if there may be a recommendation forthcoming for retention or acceleration.
3. The parent will be invited to a conference with the Principal and staff to discuss a potential retention / acceleration at least one (1) month prior to the end of the school year.
4. A Student Retention Report on the conference will be prepared and placed in the student's cumulative record and a copy will be provided to the parent indicating the nature and the outcome of the discussion.
 - 4.1 Complete Form 362-1 Student Retention Report
5. A student will remain no longer than four (4) years in any one (1) of Divisions 1, 2 or 3.
6. Special consideration is given to students with special needs.

7. When a student is retained, the Principal and staff will ensure that appropriate program adaptations and/or modifications are made.

Reference: Section 4, 7, 11, 21, 32, 33, 41, 52, 53, 59, 197, 222 Education Act
Achievement Testing Program Grades 3, 6 and 9 General Information Bulletin
Diploma Examinations Program General Information Bulletin
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Guide to Education ECS to Grade 12
Ministerial Order 004/98 – Goals and Standards Applicable to the Provision of Basic Education in
Alberta
Ministerial Order 015/2004 – Standards for Special Education
Ministerial Order 016/97 – Teaching Quality Standard
Practice Review of Teachers Regulation 11/2010
Student Record Regulation 225/2006
Student Evaluation Regulation 177/2003

Form: 362-1 Student Retention Report