

## **Series 5000 – Students**

### **1. Elementary and Secondary**

#### **B. Progress/Records**

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

Academic placement and subsequent promotion shall be determined by academic performance and social and emotional maturity. The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents and 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 successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on the statewide testing program and on other district assessments, meeting statewide reading standards in the primary grades, academic potential and student aptitude.

When high academic achievement is evident, the Superintendent or his/her 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.

Retention is a very significant measure that should be the result of the combined professional judgement of the school principal, teachers, school counselor and/or other support personnel.

Prior notification and explanation to each student's parents and/or guardian regarding his/her risk for retention shall be given by the principal or his/her designee no later than April 1. The final decision will rest with the school authorities.

The district shall provide alternatives to retention such as, but not limited to, supplemental instructional services that may require students whose academic performance jeopardizes their promotion or graduation to attend programs during school, after school, or in the summer to remediate an academic deficiency. The administration shall determine additional remediation for a student who is not promoted.

The primary factors in determining promotion or retention in grades K-8 are student achievement and student readiness for work at the next grade level. Considerations will include:

- 1) Current academic standing,
- 2) Chronological age,
- 3) Physical, social and emotional maturity,
- 4) Relationship of achievement to ability,
- 5) Potential for remediation, and
- 6) Assessment of student progress

For students in grade 9-12, successful completion of the number of required credits as determined by the Board shall determine promotion to the next grade and/or graduation. These credits shall include all courses mandated by state law and those additional credits or conditions established by the Board.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221(b) Boards of Education to prescribe rules  
10-223a Promotion and graduation policies. Basic skills necessary for  
graduation, assessment process

Policy adopted: October 17, 2006  
Policy revised: May 7, 2018, September 17, 2018

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Suffield, Connecticut