

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents and students regarding student promotion, retention, mandatory summer school instruction, and program design.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board expects all students to achieve at an acceptable level of proficiency. Parental assistance, tutorial and remedial programs, counseling and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and utilized to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

A. Promotion

Students who achieve at levels deemed acceptable by local and state standards shall be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of each school year.

B. Retention

Retention of a student may be considered when professional staff and parents feel that it is in the best interest of the student. Physical development, maturity, and emotional factors shall be considered as well as scholastic achievement. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

C. Mandatory Summer School Instruction

- 1) The Austin Public Schools may require summer school instruction for kindergarten, grade one and grade two students identified as at-risk for success in the next grade level.
- 2) Uniform district identification criteria shall be established.
 - a. Grade level criteria shall be established prior to the beginning of the school year.
 - b. Parents will be informed of the criteria to be used to determine placement in the summer school program at the beginning of the school year.
 - c. Following the end of the third quarter of the school year, a student's teacher or building principal will contact parents of any student who has been identified as at-risk for success in the next grade level.

- d. Parents will be informed of the summer school program dates and expectations of attendance for their student.
 - e. An assessment shall be given at the conclusion of the summer school session to give the school information for grade placement during the upcoming school year.
 - f. Parents will be informed of grade placement decision at the conclusion of the summer school program.
- 3) All summer school programs will be free to the students identified by teachers or the school principal and who are required to attend pursuant to established school district criteria.
 - 4) The summer school curriculum will be in line with the needs of students and in accordance with rules of the Minnesota Department of Education.
 - 5) Summer school will provide the opportunity for students to improve basic skills in reading and math.
 - 6) Required students not attending mandatory summer school will not be promoted to the next grade level.

D. Program Design

The superintendent, with participation of the professional staff and parents, shall develop and implement programs to challenge students that are consistent with the needs of students at every level. A procedure for screening and identifying students for program assignment shall be developed in coordination with such programs. Opportunities for special programs and placement outside of the school district shall also be developed as additional options.

Legal References:

- Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, Subd. 1 (Superintendents)

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