

**Promotion/Acceleration/Retention**

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) is dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled in the school. Therefore, the Bethany Public School District (District) will establish and maintain the highest standards required for each grade and monitor student performance in a continuous and systematic manner. The District will establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians. The system will be used to determine if promotion requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on demonstrated and assessed successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, standards, performance on statewide mastery assessments, and other testing instruments. Retention should take place as early in a student's educational career as possible.

Students shall be promoted on the basis of academic achievement and social and emotional maturity. Students who, on the basis of objective measures of academic proficiency, can reasonably be expected to meet the instructional/learning objectives at the next educational level may be promoted.

The Board shall approve the grading and reporting systems as developed by the administration and faculty upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

The District desires to minimize/eliminate the practice of promoting students to the next grade level for social reasons even though they are failing academically. The Board expects students to progress through each grade, usually within one (1) school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual students and include strategies for addressing substantial academic deficiencies when needed. Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting objective grade-level standards of achievement. The student's readiness for work at the next grade level will be considered before the student is promoted. Students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted; those who have not may be retained.

The school is directed to identify students in danger of retention. This identification shall also include those students who fail to meet the remedial standards of the statewide assessment programs.

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.

Prior to deciding on retention, acceleration, or grade-level modifications, the school shall provide appropriate alternative educational strategies, implemented curriculum modifications, utilized varied instructional techniques and supports, and will have reviewed the results of these interventions and with the parent/guardian.

In all cases of promotion or retention, the parent/guardian is to be fully involved and informed throughout the promotion/retention decision-making process. Parents/guardians will be notified as early as possible that retention is being considered and, except in very unusual circumstances, no later than March 15. The school administration shall be responsible for making the final decision as to retention and assignment.

## **STUDENTS**

**5123(b)**

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221(b)  
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-223a  
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-265g  
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-265l, as amended

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