

POST FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 273

Procedure Title: General

Section Title: Retention / Promotion

Sub-Section No. 508.3a

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The Board recognizes students of the same age are at many intellectual and developmental levels and these differences are a normal part of human development. Because of these differences, the administration and teaching staff are directed to make every effort to develop curricula and programs which meet the individual and unique needs of all students and allow them to remain with their age cohorts.

Every effort will be made by classroom teachers to ensure all children receive maximum benefits from instruction to enable the child to experience success. Communication between the home and school is vital. In addition to progress reports and parent conferences, teachers shall initiate parent contact and schedule additional conferences as the need arises to inform parents of students' academic progress and/or challenges.

In most cases, students in K-6th grade will advance to the next grade level annually. However, in exceptional cases, it may be determined retention or promotion is in the best interest of a student.

Retention:

Educational research generally has not found favorable achievement or adjustment outcomes for students who are retained. Retention should take place only after thorough consideration of all factors by the building's Student Assistance Team. Adequate study should be given to the needs of the child and to the criteria which affect the child's development when retention is considered. It is recommended there be no more than one retention for any individual child.

Promotion:

It is the district's philosophy a student's long-term success is related to their ability to demonstrate knowledge and skills according to grade level benchmarks. When students have already met these benchmarks, promotion (skipping a grade) may be considered. Promotion should take place only after thorough consideration of all factors by the building's Student Assistance Team, including the student's academic performance, age, physical size, and social/emotional maturity.

The following steps will be considered to determine or carry out retention or promotion:

1. The teacher shall review concerns about the student with the parent/guardian and building principal as they become apparent.
2. The principal shall refer the case to a Student Assistance Team. This team may consist of the current classroom teacher, the previous year's classroom teacher (if possible), the school counselor, school psychologist, Title or Special Education teacher and/or the building administrator.
3. The Student Assistance Team shall complete a retention or promotion scale, review student achievement data, and may recommend additional testing or evaluation in order to make a final recommendation.

Data to be reviewed may include, but not be limited to:

- X Attendance
- X Academic achievement
- X Ability/intelligence
- X Physical size
- X Age
- X Student's attitude about possible retention
- X Maturity
- X Motivation to complete school tasks
- X Parent input

4. The principal shall schedule a parent conference to review and discuss the evaluation results and recommendations of the Student Assistance Team. Parent cooperation, involvement and agreement are desirable. The decision to retain or promote rests with the Student Assistance Team. Copies of the evaluation materials and the Student Assistance Team's written decision will be placed in the student's cumulative file.
5. If the parent is opposed to the school's final recommendation, opportunity shall be provided for review by the assistant superintendent, superintendent and the Board.

Reference related policy: 503.8 - Middle Level Credits; 501.10 – Graduation and Early Graduation; 502.4 – Grade placement

Legal References: Idaho Code 33-201 School Age

Adopted: 1/24/89

Reviewed: 2017, 2021

Revised: 12/13/2021