

Promotion and Retention

The administration and teaching staff must strive to create plans of instruction and instructional organization that will permit students to progress through school according to their needs and abilities. Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade. However, exceptions to this general policy may be made when it becomes evident that a student should proceed more slowly.

Retention will not be used until other possibilities have been exhausted, including special help, remedial work, and alternative school (for those students who are eligible), including summer school opportunities. In all cases of retention, parents must be informed (preferably by registered letter) of such possibility well in advance (usually by the third reporting period/third nine weeks) and a conference with the parents will be sought. This conference shall include at a minimum the appropriate principal, classroom instructor(s), Guidance Counselor, and parent/guardian(s). In all instances, the advice and help of guidance and other special school personnel will be used by teachers.

Although teachers may recommend retention, all retentions will be assigned by the appropriate school principal. Teachers, in recommending retentions and principals in assigning them, will give the reasons why they feel the student should repeat. The principal(s) will establish minimum criteria to be attempted by both the student and teacher prior to the teaching making the recommendation for retention. The school system shall have final authority in the retention of students in grades 1-12.

The appropriate principal will take particular care in assigning more than one retention during a child's elementary school life. The parent/guardian(s) have the right to appeal the principal's decision to the Superintendent and to the School Board.

Legal Reference: SDCL 13-27-1

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