

PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY

The mission of the Governor Wentworth Regional School District is to assure that each student acquires knowledge and develops skills and work habits that enable her/him to become a contributing member of society. We are committed to ensuring that each student has the opportunity to reach the Commencement Goals established by this community. Furthermore, we believe that each student can learn and that all people learn in a variety of ways.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students has the learning opportunities necessary to meet or exceed the standards set forth by the District in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District's Strategic Plan and the State of New Hampshire in the New Hampshire State Curriculum Frameworks. This policy recognizes that the student, the parent, and the school community share in the responsibility to ensure that these expectations are met.

To that end:

Schools, and the adults who work in them, are accountable for ensuring each student works in an environment that is safe, healthful, and supportive; receives quality instruction that is responsive to her/his strengths and needs; and receives timely information about her/his progress.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child comes to school each day, on time and ready to learn. Parents need to cooperate with the school district and share the responsibility of having their child exhibit appropriate behavior.

Each student is responsible for coming to school and class prepared and on time, working hard, and contributing to the school environment in a positive and responsible manner.

DEFINITIONS:

Promotion: A grade-level advancement based on a student's achievement as measured by her/his performance in class. The standard may be either the curriculum or the student's individual plan (Individual Educational Plan or Plan for Success). Promotion in grades 9-12 is credit driven.

Grade-level Placement: A student who is not meeting the established standard, may be placed in the next grade if retention is not deemed an appropriate option.

Retention: A student may be assigned to the same grade for an additional year. Research shows that students who benefit from retention are generally chronologically and/or physically young, average and high-ability children; and children who have supportive parents.

Whenever the established standards, as outlined in the Strategic Plan and subsequent curriculum guides, are not being achieved within the context of regular classroom instructional programs, the Board shall expect the staff to initiate procedures that shall assist individual students in meeting minimum requirements. Should progress not be adequate upon having made appropriate attempts to help the student become successful, or should the student fail to make an effort to improve, retention may be deemed in the best interest of the student. Report card data, standardized and other formal and informal assessments, permanent records, attendance records and other pertinent student information shall be used to make final placement decisions (grade-level placement, promotion, retention).

In grades K-6, retention should only be recommended if the team believes that the student is likely to benefit from spending an additional year in that grade.

If upon recommendation of the staff, a decision is made to retain a student and the parent/guardian is not in agreement, the parent may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools who will make the final decision.

Reaffirmed: 9/13/93

Revised: 1/3/00, 5/18/09