

## **510.01 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION, ACCELERATION AND PROGRAM DESIGN**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents and students regarding student promotion, retention, acceleration 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 support programs, counseling and other appropriate services shall be coordinated and utilized to the greatest extent possible to help students succeed in school.

The following are guiding beliefs as schools consider this policy:

1. Students should be educated with peers of the same age to promote social and emotional development.
2. Retention may be more harmful to the student both academically and socially/ emotionally.
3. Students in special education should not be retained solely due to their disability.
4. Ongoing, consistent communication and partnership with families is essential regarding students' achievement 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. Acceleration**

Acceleration, as it relates to this policy, is defined as the advancement forward within a single-subject or a whole/entire grade, based on data showing exceptional performance, academic abilities and/or a previous retention decision being corrected.

#### D. Program Design

1. 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 process to assess and evaluate 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. All programs will be aligned with creating the World's Best Workforce, which is articulated through the SPPS Strategic Plan.
2. The School District will adopt guidelines for assessing and identifying students for participation in gifted and talented programs. The guidelines should include the use of:
  - a. multiple and objective criteria; and
  - b. assessments and procedures that are valid and reliable, fair and based on current theory and research. Assessments and procedures should be sensitive to under-represented groups, including, but not limited to, low income, minority, twice-exceptional, and English learners.
3. The school district will adopt procedures for the academic acceleration of gifted and talented students. These procedures will include how the school district will:
  - a. assess a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration; and
  - b. match the level, complexity, and pace of the curriculum to a student to achieve the best type of academic acceleration for that student.
4. The School District will adopt procedures which describe the comprehensive evaluation in cognitive, social, and emotional development domains to help determine a child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations and progress to first grade in the subsequent year for early admission to kindergarten or first grade of gifted and talented learners. The procedures must be sensitive to under-represented groups.

#### **Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented Program)

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

#### **Cross References:**

510.00, Graduation

601.00, Educational Programming

601.01, Achievement