

Grade Retention

The Snoqualmie Valley School District is committed to providing all students with a free and appropriate public education that aligns with best practice, current research, and Washington age and grade guidelines by enrolling students in the grade commensurate with a student's chronological age. However, parents have the right to request consideration for grade retention.

Grade retention is the process of having a student repeat their current grade instead of advancing to the next for the purpose of meeting that student's unique needs. For example, a student who repeats second grade in two consecutive years rather than progressing to third grade. Grade retention is employed in rare cases, and many factors must be considered to determine if a child is an appropriate candidate.

Successful grade retention requires careful consideration of the child's academic, social-emotional, and developmental needs. The child must be significantly behind peers in multiple areas, and retention should support - not hinder - his/her long term growth and well-being. As such, the decision should be informed by comprehensive data, including the use of Light's Retention Scale and school history. If you choose to pursue grade retention, the following procedure applies:

1. The parent must submit a written request to begin the grade retention process to the child's principal.
Requests must be submitted no later than May 1st of the current academic school year.
2. A meeting must be held with your child's teacher(s), a school psychologist, building administrator, and district administrator. The team will review
 - o the parent/guardian rationale for seeking grade retention;
 - o your child's current academic progress;
 - o the school psychologist will explain current research and use of Light's Retention Scale; and
 - o the district's recommendation for the student's grade retention request.
3. Once the parent/guardian has attended this required meeting and understands the recommendation of the district, Light's Retention Scale will be completed.
4. The school psychologist will guide the parent/guardian and teacher(s) in completing the Light's Retention Scale.
5. Upon completion of Light's Retention Scale, an advisory committee including a school psychologist, building administrator, and district administration will review a body of evidence to include the results of the Light's Retention Scale, historical school records, and other information (e.g., observational narratives) to determine the outcome of the grade retention request.
The decision of the committee is final and no appeals will be reviewed or granted.

For more information, contact your child's school principal.