PROMOTION, RETENTION AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS

It is essential that each child experience both challenge and success from school activities. To this end, the district will make every effort to place each student in the most appropriate learning level for a successful educational experience.

District curriculum guides indicate goals for achievement by the "average" student at each grade level. However, academic growth, like physical growth, does not take place at the same pace or time for all individuals. Certain students may achieve mastery in a shorter period, while others need additional time. “Early Identification/Intervention” and “Promotion and Retention” are methods of meeting the needs of such children.

The following guidelines shall govern student progression:

**Early Identification/Intervention**
Classroom teachers are expected to make every effort to identify those students at risk of failing. The Building Principal and the parents/guardian must be notified promptly if retention is anticipated, and a special support program shall be designed for each child identified as in danger of failing. Additional support services may include, but are not limited to, individualized assistance before, during, or after the school day; remedial classes; a change in instructional treatment, and, where appropriate, referral to the Committee on Special Education for evaluation.

**Promotion/Retention**

**Promotion**

**Elementary School-Grades K-5.** At the elementary level, students who pass all subjects will be promoted. Students who do not make satisfactory progress in one or more basic subjects - Reading, English, Mathematics, Spelling, Social Studies and Science -- shall have their cases considered on an individual basis and may be retained. Retention shall be limited to those situations where the best interest of the child is reasonably assured. Diligent effort shall be made to use all available resources to determine the child's appropriate placement.

**Middle School/ High School-Grades 6 - 12.** Please refer to the Schodack Student and Parent Handbook, which is reviewed and approved by District Administration.

**Academic Standards.** Building Principals shall be responsible for ensuring that written standards for student progress at each grade level are available to parents and others upon request. Such academic standards are to be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools each year.
Retention
A decision to retain shall be arrived at by consensus from a case conference approach involving the teacher, Building Principal, school psychologist, and parent/guardian. Factors to be considered include teacher recommendation; classroom achievement and attitude; standardized test scores; social and emotional development; results of the family conference; and, for identified students, recommendations by the Committee on Special Education. If a consensus cannot be reached, the decision of the Building Principal shall be final.

No student will be retained without an appropriate educational plan defining what will occur that is instructionally different for the student. Once the educational plan has been implemented, the student will be monitored regularly. The educational plan will be revised until the student demonstrates acceptable performance.

Student Placement

The Board of Education believes that a democratic society is best served by educating students in a context of diversity. The classes and educational settings, therefore, shall reflect, to the degree possible, the broad spectrum of the school district on a heterogeneous basis. Students shall be assigned to class by the principal based on appropriate consultation with the staff. Extenuating circumstances may be advanced to the Principal for consideration but the Principal's determination is final.

Ref: Education Law §§1709; 2503(4); 3202
8NYCRR §100.4
Matter of Eckert, 13 EDR 270 (1979)
Op. Counsel, 1 EDR 775 (1952)

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