

STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION OR ACCELERATION

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgement of the teachers and the principal, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the students involved. Exceptions will always be made after prior notification and explanation to the student's parents, but the final decision will rest with school authorities.

When it becomes apparent a secondary student will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, both the student and parents will be informed. Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency at their grade levels will also be considered for retention. Teachers must notify the principal of these students, make a recommendation to the principal concerning their promotion or retention, and hold a conference with parents.

~~The principal may require remediation at the parents' expense as a condition of promotion to the next grade level. [Such remediation may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, a mandatory summer school program focused on the areas of deficiency or other such alternatives conducted by the district outside of the regular school day.]~~

~~The parents will be requested to indicate in writing their agreement or disagreement with the recommendation for retention. The final decision will rest with the school administration. Parents may request retention if they believe it to be in the best interest of their student. The principal will confer with the teachers and parents to determine appropriate action.~~

~~More than one retention during the elementary school years will receive special consideration and require the approval of the superintendent based on the recommendation of the principal, teacher and parent or guardian.~~

~~A student in kindergarten through fourth grade may be retained due to academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism. A student in fifth through twelfth grade may be retained due to excessive absenteeism.~~

~~Excessive absenteeism means that the student was absent fifty percent or more of the school year and includes excused absences, unexcused absences, and absences due to suspension or expulsion. Absences due to approved school-related activities, such as field trips, competitions, athletic events, and testing, are not included. Illness means that the student experienced a severe mental or physical illness resulting in hospitalization of two or more weeks during the school year.~~

~~A parent or guardian wishing to request their student repeat a grade shall meet with the superintendent or designee to discuss having the student repeat a grade. The parent or~~

guardian shall provide evidence of academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism that would justify the student repeating the grade. At the meeting, the superintendent shall identify any alternative educational opportunities, including remedial instruction, if applicable, and verify any special education supports available to the student. If the parent or guardian still intends their student repeat a grade, they shall complete and submit the district's required form. If all other requirements of district policy and state statute are met, the district shall have the student repeat the grade for the next school year. The district shall file the form with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Students with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's

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graduation requirements. Acceleration ahead in a grade level should be approached with caution and should only occur with the joint approval of the superintendent, the principal and the parent or guardian.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

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