

Grass Valley School District

PROMOTION AND RETENTION – STUDENTS

BP 5210

Introduction

The Grass Valley School District is committed to ensuring that every student meets acceptable academic standards and achievement in mathematics, reading, and written expression.

The intent of promotion/retention standards is to focus resources toward improving student learning and supporting students who are at risk of failure.

Our goal is to identify students who are at risk of not achieving the standards required for promotion and providing supplemental instruction and assistance that will aid students in meeting those standards. The aim is to provide these services so that at risk students will come up to a standard that will move them progressively to the next grade level.

To achieve this goal the district will evaluate grade level standards using a variety of assessments. Students who are not meeting standards will be identified early so that a variety of interventions will be considered:

- The success of each student is based on the collaborative effort between the school, the teacher, and the family.
- Students are responsible for giving their best effort to obtain the skills and knowledge appropriate for their grade level.
- Teachers and administrators are responsible for providing a positive learning environment and quality instruction for all students.
- Parents are responsible for making education a priority in their family life and for helping their children to come to school prepared and ready to learn each day.

Retention will only be considered as a last resort if the ongoing interventions have failed to help the student make prescribed adequate progress toward grade level standards.

Retained students will be given a significantly new and different academic experience and not just a repeat of the services they have already received.

The student will be placed in the best possible learning situation within the resources of the district. Instruction will accommodate the interests and growth patterns of individual children. This policy does not conflict in any way with graduation requirements of Board Policy #6220.

5210(a)

Promotion Acceleration and Retention Policy

The Governing Board expects students to be placed in the best possible learning situation within the resources of the district. The Governing Board desires to see student's progress with their peers through the school system's grade levels. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual children, be based on the Board adopted grade level standards and include strategies for providing extra attention or assistance when needed.

Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and/or by meeting grade level standards of expected learning and/or by meeting grade level standards of expected learning achievement.

5210(a) (continued)

Acceleration

Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade. Acceleration of students to a higher grade beyond normal promotion shall be considered in rare instances. Acceleration is possible when high academic achievement is evident. The student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration before placing him/her in a higher grade. Exceptions will only be made after prior notification and explanation to each student's parent/guardian, but the final decision shall rest with the school authorities.

BP5210(c)

Promotion and Retention

Students shall be considered for promotion and retention in specific subject areas and between certain grade levels:

- Second grade and third grade in reading and mathematics
- Fourth and fifth grade in reading, language arts, and mathematics
- Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade in reading, language arts, mathematics

As early as possible students who do not meet criteria for promotion (moving to the next grade the next year) will be identified through multiple assessments to be at risk of retention.

Students will be identified as at risk of being retained one to three years prior to retention to provide intensive remediation.

Retention (remaining at the same grade level for a second year) is an action to assist the student to increase learning achievement and meet the promotion requirements. The principal, designee, and/or teacher(s) shall identify students who should be retained and who are at risk of being retained.

If a student is identified as performing below the basic standard for promotion, in grades 3, 5, and 8 the student shall be retained in his/her current grade level. The student's regular classroom teacher may determine, in writing, that retention is not the appropriate intervention. The teacher's decision may be appealed to the superintendent and then to the Board of Trustees who will serve as the appeal panel. The Board's decision shall be final.

BP5210(b)

Criteria for Retention

Determination for promotion, at risk of being retained and retention shall be based, but not limited to the following criteria:

- District Grade Level Standards Based Assessment
- Northwest Leveled Achievement Test
- Stanford 9 Achievement Test
- Attendance
- Report Card

BP5210(b)(continued)

It is the intent of the Grass Valley School District to provide intervention programs for any student at risk of not meeting grade level standards. If a previously retained student still does not meet grade level standards, that student shall participate in the intervention programs. A second retention and notification to parents for student requires approval of the superintendent (See Rules and Regulations). A notification for a second retention in the Grass Valley School District requires approval of the superintendent.

When a student is recommended for retention or is identified as being at risk for retention, the principal or school staff shall provide opportunities for remedial instruction to assist the student in overcoming his/her academic deficiencies.

Parent or guardian may appeal the recommendation of retention of their child to the Superintendent. It is the responsibility of the appealing party to show why the child should not be retained.

Legal Reference: Educational Code

37252-37253	Summer School
46300	Method of computing ADA
48011	Admission on completing kindergarten; grade placement of pupils coming from other districts
48070-48070.5	Promotion and Retention
48431.6	Required systematic review of students and grading
51215	Proficiency standards in basic skills
51216	Assessment of pupil proficiency
51217	Withholding diploma (high school)
51218	Separate proficiency standards
56345	Elements of individualized education plan
60641-60647	Standardized Testing and Reporting Program
60648	Minimum performance levels
Code of Regulations, Title V	
200-202	Admission and exclusion of students

1st Reading/Discussion: 05/09/00

2nd Reading: 06/13/00

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