

Pennsbury School District

School Board Policy

Effective Date	Supersedes Index No.	Index No.
6/21/11	New	215.1

Title: Promotion and Retention

Purpose: This document contains policy guidance related to retaining students in grade and promotion students to the next higher grade level.

References: School Code 1531, 1532, 1611, and 1613
PA Code Title 22 § 4.12, 4.12, and 4.42

Policy: The School Board recognizes that the emotional, social, physical, and educational development of students will vary and that students should be placed in the educational setting most appropriate to their needs. The School District will establish and maintain high standards for each grade and monitor student achievement in a continuous and systematic manner.

The School Board establishes that each student shall be moved forward in a continuous pattern of achievement and development that corresponds with the student's development, the system of grade levels, and attainment of the academic standards established for each grade.

A student shall be promoted when he or she has successfully completed the curriculum requirements and has achieved the academic standards established for the present level, based on the professional judgment of the teachers and the results of assessments. A student shall advance to the next grade by demonstrating mastery of the required skills and knowledge and in accordance with established procedures when acceleration is appropriate.

The Chief Executive Officer or Superintendent shall develop procedures for promotion and retention of students which assure that every effort will

be made to remediate the student's difficulties before the student is retained.

The building principal shall be assigned the final responsibility for determining the promotion or retention of each student.

In all cases of retention, the parents/guardians shall be fully involved and informed throughout the process by the classroom teacher and/or guidance counselor. Parents or guardians and students shall be informed of the possibility of retention of a student well in advance of the final determination and invited to discuss the matter with school officials.

Promotion or retention decisions shall be made according to the progress of the student as recommended by teachers and decided by the principals. A student may be promoted or retained in a grade level or demoted pursuant to a teacher's recommendation, approved by the principal and the school psychologist, if the benefits appear to be great enough to warrant it. No student has a right to acceleration, promotion or retention if guidelines established herein are not met.

In arriving at the decision for either the acceleration, promotion or retention of students, a combined view of the teacher, principal, and others shall be considered. Results obtained from various tests and class work assignments shall be important factors in the decision. Periodically, teachers shall meet with parents of students to discuss individual student progress.

The guiding philosophy for determining acceleration, promotion, or retention shall be on the basis of what is best for the student.

Responsible

Administrator: Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction