PROMOTION

The superintendent/designee shall promote students to the next grade level based on the successful completion of required academic work and the demonstration of satisfactory progress in each of the relevant academic areas. However, no student enrolled in the third grade shall be promoted unless the student has shown a basic understanding of curriculum and the ability to perform the skills required in the subject of reading as demonstrated by the student's grades or standardized test results. This requirement shall not apply to students who are participating in a board-approved, research-based intervention prior to the beginning of the next school year or to students who have an individualized education program (IEP).

Students who have difficulty in achieving the requirements for promotion may be considered for retention. Schools shall identify these students by February 1st. Factors used to identify students for retention shall include:

1. The student’s ability to perform at the current grade level;
2. The results of local or state assessments, if applicable assessments, screening, or monitoring tools;
3. State assessments, as applicable;
4. The overall academic achievement of the student;
5. The student’s chance for likelihood of success with more difficult material if promoted to the next grade;
6. Attendance record;
7. Social and emotional maturity; and
8. English language acquisition (consult with ELS teacher regarding language level).

Students may be identified for retention after the February 1st deadline if the delay in identifying a student is due to:

1. Date of enrollment; or
2. Additional information acquired after results of local assessment, screening, or monitoring are released.

When a student is considered for retention, the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within fifteen (15) days, and an individualized promotion plan shall be developed to help the student avoid retention. The plan shall be developed in coordination with the student’s teachers and may also include input from the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), school counselor, or other appropriate school personnel. This copy of the plan will be provided to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s).

The director superintendent shall develop procedures governing how decisions on retention will be made after the student begins work on his/her individualized promotion plan.

**K – 3 Reading Notification**

If it is determined through a student’s overall performance or a state or local assessment that a student in grades kindergarten through three (K-3) is not meeting grade-level standards in reading, the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified within fifteen (15) calendar days of such determination.

**RETENTION**

A student may be retained when, in the judgment of the student’s teacher and/or the student’s IEP team, such retention is in the best interest of the student. However, a student shall not be retained more than once in any grade.

If a student is retained, the superintendent/designee shall develop an individualized academic remediation plan prior to the start of the next school year. A copy of the plan shall be provided to the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) within ten (10) days of its development. This plan shall include at least one of the following strategies:

1. Adjustment to the current instructional strategies or materials;
2. Additional instructional time;
3. Individual tutoring outside of school hours;
4. Modification to the student’s classroom assignment to ensure the student receives instruction from a highly-effective teacher with a level of overall effectiveness of above expectations (level 4) or significantly above expectations (level 5); or
5. Attendance or truancy interventions.

The superintendent shall develop procedures to ensure proper monitoring of appropriate recordkeeping of students who are retained and appropriate recordkeeping.
For the purpose of determining the effectiveness of retention toward improving student achievement, 
the progress of retained students shall be closely monitored for at least three (3) years and reported to 
parent(s)/guardian(s) at least three (3) times during the school year in which the student is retained.

Legal References

1. State Board of Education Policy 3.300; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.05(3)(b)
2. TCA 49-6-3115; 20 USCA § 1400 et seq.

Cross References

Credit Recovery 4.210
Grading System 4.600
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Attendance 6.200
Student Assignments 6.205