

SUBJECT: PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

It is essential that each child experience both challenge and success from school activities. Grade placement should enhance this possibility. It is the goal of the Gouverneur Central School District to meet the needs of all students and provide an educational program based on what is best for the child.

It is the goal and intent of the Board of Education that all students should be promoted. Academic programs for students should be directed toward teaching children at their own academic, social, emotional and maturational levels.

Grade Promotion and Placement

Grade promotion and the placement of students within the District's instructional system shall be at the discretion of the school administration and shall be subject to review at any time. In making such decisions, the administrator or Building Principal will be guided by performance in class; past records, including multiple measures of student growth; parent and teacher recommendations; and any other appropriate sources of information. With regard to student placement decisions, parents may-submit written requests for teacher attributes that would best serve their child's learning needs; however, requests for specific teachers will not be honored.

Testing Program

The Gouverneur Central School District utilizes various ability, achievement, diagnostic readiness, interest and guidance tests for the purpose of complying with state and federal law and/or aiding the implementation of quality educational services.

Alternative Testing Procedures

The use of alternative testing procedures shall be limited to:

- a) Students identified by the Committee on Special Education as having a disability. Alternative testing procedures shall be specified in a student's Individualized Education Program; and
- b) Students whose native language is other than English (i.e., English language learners) in accordance with State Education Department Guidelines.

The alternative testing procedures employed shall be based upon a student's individual needs and the type of test administered.

The District shall report the use of alternative testing procedures to the State Education Department on a form and at a time prescribed by the Commissioner.

Retention

When retention occurs it will be based on the individual needs of the student. Alternative instructional strategies and interventions shall be implemented and monitored prior to consideration of possible retention. Decisions to recommend retention shall be made by consensus from a multidisciplinary team (i.e., teachers, parents, school psychologist, guidance counselor, administration) in accordance with procedures developed by the Superintendent or his/her designee. If a consensus cannot be reached, the decision of the Building Principal shall be final. The decision will be communicated to the parent by the Building Principal.

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SUBJECT: PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS (CONT.)**Guidelines**

A student will only be retained if there is strong rationale that the retention itself is likely to have a positive impact on the student.

If a student is retained, a plan must be developed for providing an alternate approach to the teaching strategies that were unsuccessful.

Teachers are required to bring to the building principal's attention those students whose promotion is in question, no later than the end of the twentieth week and a parent conference must be held to discuss possible retention. Parents and/or teachers may request a retention scale be completed relative to the child to aid in the formulation of recommendations.

Reporting to Parents and Persons in Parental Relation to Students

Parents, guardians, and/or persons in parental relation to District students shall receive an appropriate report of student progress at regular intervals.

The District will comply with state and federal requirements regarding the maintenance and transfer of student test scores.

When necessary, the District will arrange for an interpreter through an on-demand interpreting service for hearing impaired or non-English speaking parents, guardians, and/or persons in parental relation to District students.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC Section 794 et seq.

Education Law Sections 305(45) - (47), 1709(3)

8 NYCRR Sections 100.2(g), 100.2(l), 100.3(b)(2)(iv), 100.4(b)(2)(v), 100.4(e)(6)

8 NYCRR Parts 117 and 154

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