

DE SOTO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

345.4

GRADE ADVANCEMENT

The De Soto Area School District believes that all students should achieve optimal learning based on high expectations and considerations of their abilities and needs. The Board of Education recognizes that students have diverse capabilities and interests and individual patterns for growth and learning. Therefore, the Board believes it is important that teachers have as much accurate knowledge of each student as is possible through tests and observations of students' ability and achievement, work habits, skills and health.

Retention is defined as not permitting a student to advance to the next grade level with his/her classmates. The District supports the judicious use of retention when there is compelling evidence that the student is likely to benefit socially and/or academically, and when otherwise required by Board policy (refer to "Fourth through Eighth Grade Promotion" below.) The following criteria are intended to assist educators and parents/guardians in identifying those children who are most likely to benefit and those who are not:

1. Retention is never to be used as punishment.
2. Retention is never to be used to supplant other educational services (remedial instruction, Title I or special education).
3. Retention decisions shall be formed by a team approach and the team recommendation shall occur after consideration is given to a variety of factors.
4. Except as otherwise required, retention after the second grade shall occur only under the most extenuating circumstances (e.g. student unavailable for instruction due to extended absences).
5. Retention can provide positive benefits with parent/guardian involvement and understanding. Parents/guardians need to understand the rationale for the retention recommendation and how to deal with that issue with the child. The assignment of students is the legal prerogative of the principal of the school. Parents/guardians shall be consulted and kept well-informed at as early a date as possible when it is apparent that retention is being considered.

Fourth through Eighth Grade Promotion

No fourth or eighth grade student may be promoted unless the student satisfies the following four criteria. Promotion of students in grades four and eight who are opted out of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Testing (WKCE), and of all students in grades five, six and seven shall be based on the other three specified criteria (i.e. items 2-4).

1. The student receives scores of basic or above on three or more of the five subtests that comprise the WKCE;

AND

2. The student achieves a cumulative grade point average of 2.0; AND (fourth grade only) scores at the basic level or above on the Wisconsin third-grade reading test.

OR

3. The student successfully completes the goals and objectives of his/her individualized education plan (IEP).

OR

4. The student secures a recommendation from the grade advancement committee, which consists of five of the student's teachers, the guidance counselor and the principal. The recommendation shall be reached by majority ballot. Students promoted under this criterion shall participate in remedial programs if determined by the committee.

Decisions regarding promotion/retention shall be made in accordance with established procedures.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.14 Wisconsin Statutes
118.145
118.24(2) (a)
118.33(6)

CROSS REF.: 345.4-Rule, Retention Procedures

APPROVED: July 16, 2001

REVISED: January 8, 2007
