

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The Cambridge School Committee recognizes that each child develops socially, emotionally, and intellectually at a rate unique to that child and that each child must be afforded the opportunity to progress continually through school community environments that meet their individual needs. A student who struggles to be successful in school may advance to the next grade when in the judgment of the principal, based upon input from school staff and parent/guardian, advancement is in the best interest of the student.

Students are expected to progress through the grade levels. When a student struggles to meet grade-level standards, school staff, students and parents/guardians will work together to customize support services to help the student succeed. Retention should be considered a last resort and will take place only after very careful consideration and implementation of a retention intervention plan. With the exception of kindergarten students who due to age may remain in the same grade for a second year, a student may be retained no more than once prior to entering high school. Decisions made regarding students with IEPs must be consistent with the IEP Team findings. The decision to retain a student shall be made by the Building Principal K-12, in consultation with appropriate staff members and parents/guardians. At the elementary level, should the parent/guardian disagree with the principal's decision, the principal will write a letter to be placed in the student's cumulative folder attesting to the recommendation of the principal while allowing the parent/guardian to have the final decision. At the secondary level, the accrual of appropriate credits determines the student's status of grade enrollment unless otherwise determined by the IEP team findings.

No student who has completed a grade successfully shall be retained or allowed to repeat a grade in order to improve his/her ability or lengthen his/her eligibility to participate in extra-curricular athletic programs.

The Superintendent shall establish administrative guidelines to implement this policy and establish administrative procedures that are to be followed by teachers when retention of a student is considered.

Adopted: March 2, 2004