

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS PROCEDURES

The Promotion and Retention Procedures approved by the Merrimack School Board shall be published yearly in the Parent-Student handbook for each school.

Students are typically promoted to the next grade level. A decision to retain a student must be given careful and thorough consideration. All promotions and retentions must adhere to District Policy and Procedures and must be based on classroom and identified grade level assessments. This information will determine the degree to which the student does or does not meet the grade level standards for academic performance. If retention is being considered for a child, parents will be notified as soon as retention is being considered, and in all cases, parents shall be notified no later than March of the academic year. A parent request for retention shall be submitted to the Principal/Designee on or before March 15.

All students are expected to meet or exceed grade level standards and competencies. For those students who are failing to meet such standards, after multiple intervention teaching strategies have been implemented, retention should only be used where there is compelling evidence that the student is likely to benefit from retention academically and/or socially.

The decision to retain a child will be made only after:

1. Careful analysis of all available assessment data
2. Consideration of all relevant data, including the child's chronological age, academic growth and potential in all areas of schoolwork, social adjustment, physical well-being, school attendance, and any other factors which may impact the student.
3. Discussion with teacher, service providers, counselors and parents/guardians.

Retentions will be considered only after multiple strategies have been employed to remediate the child's academic learning difficulties.

If there is a disagreement between parents and school officials, with respect to a student's retention, the school principal will have the final decision on whether or not the student will be retained. If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the principal's decision, an appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools on or before May 1st. The Superintendent's decision shall be the final decision of the District with respect to the student's retention.

1st Reading: June 17, 2024

2nd Review: July 15, 2024

Adoption: August 12, 2024 (per policy)