

IKE - PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Category Priority-The subject matter of these policies is required by state and or federal law.

The Superintendent of Winchester and the building principals shall develop rules for the promotion and retention of students, and the rules shall have the approval of the Board. These rules shall be published in the Parent-Student Handbook.

The Winchester School Board and staff are dedicated to the continuous development of each student. The professional staff is expected to place students at the grade level suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally.

Most children mature and acquire the basic skills of learning in a manner which equates a school year to a grade. In instances where a child has failed to acquire sufficient mastery of basic skills, he or she may be considered for retention. This decision is made only after:

1. Careful consideration of the child's chronological age, academic growth and potential in all areas of school work, cognitive development, social adjustment, physical well-being, emotional stability, and school attendance;
2. Careful study of test results;
3. Conferences with teachers, service providers, and parents.

A student in elementary school may be a candidate for retention if:

1. The student has never been retained before;
2. The student exhibits a level of social maturity far below that which is appropriate to the next grade.
3. Students may be retained if they have not acquired sufficient mastery of the basic skills for the following grade in one or more of the subject areas: reading, language arts, and math. Failure of one or more of these subjects may make the student a candidate for retention.

A student in middle school may be a candidate for retention if:

1. The student has never been retained in grades 6-8 prior to this recommendation;
2. The student may be retained if he or she fails to pass one or more of the following subjects: math, language arts, social studies, and science. Some students may qualify to participate in a district approved summer school program. Promotion to the next grade is contingent on successful completion of that program.

Students should be retained only under unique circumstances when no other remedy or alternative course of action is available. If the child's parent/guardian wishes to appeal the retention decision, they should first contact the principal. An appeal can then be made to the Superintendent if the issue remains unresolved at the building level.

Legal Reference:

Ed 306.14(b)(3), Promoting Students (until July 1, 2105)

Ed 306 14I(A)(3), Promoting Students (after July 1, 2015)

Revised: July 2004, November 1999, July 1998

Adopted by WSB 5/17/90

Reviewed by WSB 1/21/10

Approved by WSB 2/18/10

Reviewed & Approved by WSB 6/2014