**CODE G9 (Mandatory)**

CODE G9 - GRADE ADVANCEMENT: RETENTION, PROMOTION & ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS

**Policy**A goal of the Grand Isle Supervisory Union is for each student to progress in his or her educational program by reaching a standard of achievement necessary to progress from grade to grade.

**Definitions**

1. *Acceleration* is the advancement of a student by more than one grade beyond the current grade level.
2. *Promotion* is the single grade step most students take from year to year.
3. *Retention*allows a student to repeat all or part of a grade in order to more fully prepare for the work of the next grade.

Promotion, retention and acceleration decisions will be based on the extent to which a student is meeting the standards established by the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities as well as other relevant factors, including social, emotional, physical and mental growth, past academic performance, behavior, motivation, and attendance.

**Implementation**

Classroom educators are responsible for assessing student progress and recommending the promotion of students each year. Educators will assess academic readiness to advance to the next grade using a thorough evaluation process that will include but not be limited to standardized testing – those offered by the State as well as others chosen by the District – classroom-based testing, portfolios and teacher observation. The evaluation will also take into account social, emotional, physical and mental growth, past academic performance and behavior, motivation, attendance, and other pertinent circumstances.

The Principal will develop rules to implement this policy that will specify a process for the consideration of retention or acceleration that will include the following characteristics:

* 1. Will seek the involvement of parents/guardians in a highly collaborative working relationship.
	2. Focus the use of retention in the early primary grades at which time research indicates it is most effective.
	3. Acceleration should be considered in rare cases after all enrichment opportunities have been thoroughly explored.
	4. Students will be retained or accelerated if it is expected that the action will be beneficial to the student socially, emotionally, academically and when there are no other ways to meet student’s needs.

*When considering retention, such actions as remediation in class or out, tutoring in class or after school, mentoring, cooperative efforts with families, or summer school should be evaluated.*

*Before considering acceleration, actions such as inclusion in a full or part-time gifted program, enrichment in the classroom or other advanced courses through correspondence, distance learning, or through other institutions should be examined.*

1. Will outline steps and time frames that provide for a great deal of interaction with parents / guardians.
	1. The final decision will be made by the Principal after consultation with parents / guardians, classroom teacher(s) and other professional staff.

**Appeals**

Should a parent disagree or have concerns with the Principal’s decision, an appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools. Within ten working days of receiving an appeal, the Superintendent shall meet with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and make a decision on the appeal in a prompt fashion. A final appeal from the superintendent’s decision may be made to the School Board which will schedule a timely hearing and render a final decision within ten working days of the hearing date.

 *Date Warned: 9/6/15, 10/8/15*

*Date Adopted: 10/20/15*

*Legal Reference(s): VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices: §2120.2.2 (d)*

*Cross Reference:*