

POLICY

ROCHELLE PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

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5410 PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The Board of Education, administration and teaching staff shall strive to create plans of organized instruction to provide maximum opportunity for each pupil to progress through school according to his/her own needs and abilities.

Promotion to the next grade is contingent upon success in the present grade. A pupil will not be promoted to the next grade if it is found to be in his/her best interest to repeat the grade. Retention in the present grade may result when one of the following occurs. The pupil:

1. Fails two or more subjects for the year.
2. Fails one major subject in first grade.
3. Fails one major and two or more minor subjects for the year.
4. Fails physical education or health for the year (State mandate). Has been unable to complete a significant amount of schoolwork because of illness and/or excessive absence.

The decision to retain a pupil in his/her present grade is a serious one, which is guided by the idea that retention will have a long-term benefit for the pupil. Prior to the decision, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) will be informed of the probability of failure for the year. A parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) conference will be held to inform the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the course of action the school recommends. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) will provide permission for a Child Study Team observation, consultation, and if necessary, formal evaluation.

Retention of a pupil shall be based on one or more of the criteria approved by the Board for this purpose. Final decision ultimately rests with the Principal.

In all cases, most, if not all, of the following procedures should be an integral part of consideration for retention:

1. Parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) are to be consulted and advised of any concerns well in advance by the classroom teacher.



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2. Every attempt possible is to be made to remediate weaknesses as they appear, including the providing of extra help from specialists.
3. The Child Study Team is to be consulted and involved in sophisticated analysis of the child's problems, if involvement is indicated.
4. Further remediation, based upon the Child Study Team's findings and recommendations, is to be implemented.
5. Prior to any decision, all factors of a child's situation are to be examined in detail, including:
 - a. Chronological age;
 - b. Maturity level;
 - c. Likelihood of future success and/or failure dependent upon promotion or retention;
 - d. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) views of the above;
 - e. Social and emotional outcomes (projected by all involved) of either promotion or retention;
 - f. The child's current academic level measured by specialized testing as well as teacher judgment in relation to normal expectations and in relation to the child's peers; and
 - g. Attendance and all other factors that may be pertinent to an individual child.

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.9

Adopted: 02 April 2007

