

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #53
Burnham – Detroit – Pittsfield

Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students

It is the intent of the Board that appropriate instruction be offered to all students in a progressive and sequential way. Therefore, the grade placement of each student will be made on an individual basis, understanding that the level of instruction at each grade is not a single level of instruction but rather a series of levels intended to meet the various needs of students assigned to that grade level.

As far as possible, promotion, retention or acceleration of students will be decided through conferences involving the Principal (or designee), teachers, and parents. The guidance counselor and district evaluator will participate as appropriate. Parents will be notified as early as possible of placement consideration, and except in very unusual circumstances no later than March 15. The Principal shall be responsible for making the final decision as to promotion, retention or acceleration and classroom assignment. Parents dissatisfied with this decision may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions regarding students in special education will be made through the Pupil Evaluation Team process.

The following criteria shall be utilized in making decisions concerning promotion, retention or acceleration of students:

- A. Student achievement;
- B. Academic potential;
- C. Attendance;
- D. Health;
- E. Maturity;
- F. Physical size;
- G. Age in relation to grade placement;
- H. Student attitude & concern;
- I. Parent concerns;
- J. Out-of-school influences;
- K. Program options;
- L. Previous Retention; and
- M. Proficiency Level of Learning Results standards.

Any necessary retention should take place as early in a student's educational career as possible. Only in unusual circumstances should a student be retained more than once.

Legal Reference: CH. 125.23, B, 5, 1 (Maine Dept. Of Ed. Rule)

Policy Reference: 8.10 Learning Results

Amended: 4/12/99

Amended: 1/7/02