

West Central School District 49-7

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Purpose: It is the intention of the West Central School District to provide the highest level of achievement to the students of the district. In the event that an individual student is not progressing academically in their core courses, at the rate of expectation defined by the professional educators at the student's grade level, the District will consider the possibility of retaining that student in the same grade/course for an additional school year. When deciding whether to pass or retain a child in a grade, there are not absolute rules to follow, only guidelines to help facilitate the decision making process. Each child must be judged individually and carefully, using all available records and facts.

Core courses are defined in this policy as: Reading, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics

Consideration of Student Retention in Kindergarten through Eighth Grade

1. The District will work with the parents/guardians of a student to determine what is best for the student who is being considered for retention. The student will be promoted if they are passing the core courses, unless the parent and the administration, because of physical, mental or social conditions, want the child retained.
2. If professional educators recognize early in the child's school career that the child's mental or physical development will progress at a rate that would be best served by retention, the child should be retained in the earliest possible grade-level. The educators in these instances should share their concerns with the building principal.
3. A child should be passed or retained on the basis of their overall grades in core courses. Reading should be of specific focus, as it has shown to be a scientifically effective measure of student achievement in all other course content.
4. Students in grades 3-8 are expected to pass 80% of the core subjects during the school year, and maintain a level of proficient as indicated on state approved assessments before they are automatically promoted to the next grade. If students are not proficient on state assessments, but are passing at least four of the five core courses, the student shall be referred through the Teacher Assistance Team process to develop instructional goals for the student. If any student is passing fewer than four of the defined five core courses, they will be considered for retention.
5. In the event that a child is being considered for retention, the teaching team, the building principal, the parent/guardian of the student, and any other educational

staff relevant to the child's instructional program will meet in a retention conference for that child.

6. The District administration will make every reasonable effort to include the parents/guardians in the discussion of their child's retention. The District reserves the right to retain any child, including in the event that a parent/guardian does not agree with the District's decision, or wishes not to participate in a retention conference.
7. Students who do not meet the guidelines to be promoted, should be promoted only if the District believes that promotion is in the best interest of the student and the school. Any retention decision should be determined in the retention conference, and with the approval of the superintendent. The following items are examples of when a student may be promoted even though they did not pass 80% of the core courses:
 - a. A student has been retained one or two times previous to the year in consideration for retention.
 - b. Physically and socially, he or she is much more mature than the other students in the grade.
 - c. The professional educational staff do not believe an additional year in the current grade would provide academic benefit.

Consideration of Student Retention in Ninth through Twelfth Grade

1. High school students in all classes and in all grades should be passed by the professional educator only if the caliber of work completed by the student meets the instructor's pre-set guidelines for a passing grade.
2. Students who do not pass a core course shall be retained in that course content area until they are able to successfully complete the course requirements.
3. If a senior has not completed the number of credits required by the District for graduation, he or she may not graduate, or participate in commencement exercises. As soon as a student who did not graduate as a senior completes the requirements for high school graduation, they may take part in the next available commencement exercise.
4. Students in high school will not be allowed to pass any course on an exceptional condition or an incomplete without the approval of the building principal and the superintendent.

Policy:

Adopted: 8/8/94

Revised: 7/8/96

Revised: 4/10/06