

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

The Bethany Board of Education (Board) is dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled in the school. Therefore, the Bethany Public School District (District) will establish and maintain the highest standards required for each grade and monitor student performance in a continuous and systematic manner. The school administration and faculty shall establish a system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parent/guardian. The system shall also determine when promotion and graduation requirements are met. The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on demonstrated and assessed successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, standards, performance on statewide assessments and other testing instruments. Any necessary retention should take place as early in a student's educational career as possible.

Students shall be promoted on the basis of academic achievement. Students who, on the basis of objective measures of academic proficiency, can reasonably be expected to meet the instructional/learning objectives at the next educational level may be promoted.

The Board shall approve the grading and reporting systems as developed by the administration and faculty upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Board desires to minimize/eliminate the practice of promoting students to the next grade level for social reasons even though they are failing academically. The Board expects students to progress through each grade, usually within one (1) school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual students and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed. Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards of expected student achievement. The student's readiness for work at the next grade level should be considered before he/she is promoted. Students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted; those who have not may be retained.

The school shall identify students in danger of failing and being at risk for retention. This identification shall also include those students who fail to meet the remedial standards of the statewide assessment program.

When high academic achievement is evident, the Superintendent or his/her designee may approve a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

Prior to deciding on retention, acceleration, or grade level modifications, the school shall provide appropriate alternative educational strategies, implemented curriculum modifications, utilized varied instructional techniques and supports and will have reviewed the results of these interventions and with the parent/guardian.

In all cases of promotion or retention, the parent/guardian is to be fully involved and informed throughout the promotion/retention decision-making process. Parents/Guardians will be notified as early as possible that retention is being considered and, except in very unusual circumstances, no later than March 15. The school administration or his/her designee shall be responsible for making the final decision as to retention and assignment.

STUDENTS

5123(b)

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221(b)
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-265g
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-265l
Public Act 99-288

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
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