

345.4 PROMOTION/RETENTION

It is the goal of the School District to assist students to reach their maximum potential. The determination of the appropriateness of retention as the best educational alternative for the student shall be made after careful and systematic consideration of the following factors:

Age of the student	Alternative programs available
Developmental readiness	Availability of support services
Prior retentions	Student's attitude
Social/emotional development	Parents' input
Maturity level	Academic performance
Attendance	Teacher recommendations

If retention is to be considered as an educational alternative for the student, it is recommended it be done in the early primary grades.

The primary responsibility for making a decision about whether retention will be used as an educational alternative for the student or whether the student will be advanced to the next grade level will be made by a team of professionals at the building level with involvement from the parent(s)/guardian(s). The team will consider the necessary factors and develop a personalized plan prior to making a retention decision. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be communicated with and involved in the process, beginning no later than March 1 of the school year prior to the student being retained.

Retention decisions are team decisions made only after considering the factors in each case and exploring the various alternatives. While consensus is desirable, it may not always be possible. The building principal will be the individual ultimately responsible for making the final retention decision. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools.

If the student is a child with a disability, as determined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), promotion/retention will be considered and determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. Appeals would begin with the Director/Assistant Director of Pupil Services.

The promotion/retention policy complies with current state and federal law. Students must meet established criteria in order to be promoted from kindergarten to first grade, 4th to 5th grade, or from 8th to 9th grade. Retention can happen at other grade levels based on previously mentioned factors.

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools does not discriminate in the methods, practices and materials used for evaluating students on the basis of gender, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or any other characteristic protected under State or Federal civil rights laws.

LEGAL REF.: Section 118.33(6) Wis. Statutes

CROSS REF.: 345.41 Promotion/Retention of Kindergarten, Fourth and Eighth Grade Students
411 Rule, Student Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment
421 Rule, Guidelines for Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade

ADOPTED: November 1974

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