

6.17 PROMOTION, PLACEMENT AND RETENTION

Each year, teachers are expected to assess the progress of each child. Promotion in the Franklin Local School District is based on school aptitude, the acquisition of knowledge and mastery of skills, general physical, social and emotional maturity, the total school record, and the number of previous retentions. The guiding aim in promotion or retention should be the placement of the child in an appropriate learning situation. Promotion and retention decisions will be based upon the academic enhancement of the student rather than social or athletic considerations unless otherwise approved by the Board or its designee. To retain a child for a second year would mean that such a procedure would have significantly more advantages than disadvantages for the general well-being of the pupil. Throughout the year, the teacher will consult with the principal, supervisory, and guidance personnel concerning children whose progress is questionable. This promotion/retention policy has been written in compliance with O.R.C. §3319.01, which states that the Superintendent shall assign the pupils of the school district to the proper grades.

An in-depth study should be made of any student who is being considered for retention. The decision to promote or retain should be a cooperative effort among the parents, teachers, principal and any other resource person(s) deemed necessary. Generally, a student will be promoted to the succeeding grade level when he/she has:

- Completed the course and state-mandated requirements at the presently assigned grade;
- In the opinion of his/her teachers, achieved the instructional objectives set for the present grade; and
- Demonstrated sufficient proficiency to permit him/her to move ahead to the educational program of the next grade.

Following sound principles of child guidance, the Board discourages the skipping of grades.

Retention in the Third Grade (ORC 3313.608)

The Board shall retain any student scoring below the designated level on the Grade 3 Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) except for the following students (ORC 3313.608(A)(2)):

- *Limited English proficient students* who have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than three full school years and have had less than three years of instruction in an English as a Second Language program;
- *Special education students* whose IEPs specifically exempt them from retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee;
 - To be exempt from retention by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, a student with a disability who has an IEP should meet one of two criteria:
 - The student is completing a curriculum that is significantly different from the curriculum completed by other students required to take Grade 3 Reading OAA; or
 - The student requires accommodations that are beyond the allowable accommodations as outlined in OAC 3301-13-03(H).
 - If the student meets one of these criteria, the IEP team can then decide if the student should be excused from the Third Grade Reading Guarantee retention provision.
- *Special education students* whose IEPs specifically exempt them from all provisions of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, and the student is participating in a significantly modified curriculum.
- Students who demonstrate reading competency on a *Grade 3 Reading OAA alternative* approved by ODE; and
- Any student who has received *intensive remediation for two years and was previously retained* in kindergarten through Grade 3.

- A student that advances because of this exception shall continue to receive intensive reading instruction in the fourth grade, or whatever reading interventions are required by the student's IEP or 504 plan.

Summer Promotion (ORC 3313.608(B)(3)(b))

The Grade 3 Reading OAA summer version may be administered to students not meeting the designated level on the Fall or Spring OAA or on the alternative assessment to the OAA.

- Students scoring at or above the designated level may be promoted to fourth grade.
- Students scoring below the designated level will be retained in third grade.

Mid-Year Promotion (ORC 3313.608(B)(3)(b))

Eligibility

- To be eligible for mid-year promotion, students retained in third grade must meet both of the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated proficiency on the third grade TerraNova3 in social studies and science;
 - Demonstrated proficiency on the third grade state assessment in mathematics
- An eligible student will still be considered a third grader and will receive grade level appropriate instruction in each subject area.

Mid-Year Promotion

- Eligible students may be promoted to fourth grade by earning a Lexile score of 500 or above on the Scholastic Reading Inventory prior to September 30.
 - A promoted student will be considered a fourth grade student.
 - Reading support will be provided if appropriate.
- Eligible students not reaching the designated Lexile score on the Scholastic Reading Inventory prior to September 30 will enter fourth grade the following year.

Transfers/Placement

Students who transfer to the Franklin Local School District are generally placed in the same grade in which he/she was enrolled prior to the transfer. However, the student may be placed in any grade after consultation with the parents, if it is determined that he/she is unable to comprehend the work in the grade to which he/she would have been transferred. In all cases, the best interests of the student shall be the prime consideration. Any student that transfers from an unchartered school will have their credits evaluated on an individual basis by the principal who may require additional evaluations be done to assist in making a grade placement.

Truancy

Any student who is truant for more than ten percent (10%) of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade shall not be promoted to the next grade level, unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

As used in this policy, "academically prepared" means that the principal, in conjunction with the appropriate teacher(s), has reviewed the student's work and records and has concluded that, in the principal's judgment as a professional educator, the student is capable of progressing through and successfully completing work at the next grade level.

Retention in Grades 6-8

Philo Junior High School students who fail two (2) subject areas must attend summer school, or be excused by the building principal, in order to be placed in the next grade. To be placed in the next grade, students must attend 95% of the summer school sessions and successfully complete the summer school course of study.

The final decision of promotion, placement, or retention will rest with the Superintendent.