

5410 PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The curriculum of the Westfield Public Schools is aligned with the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey which sets minimum standards for all pupils. In addition to meeting basic State Standards, the curriculum is designed to provide an advanced level of proficiency for all pupils. The curriculum is organized by grade levels and subject areas in a sequential manner building on the skills learned in previous grades.

Promotion

Satisfactory completion of grade level curriculum is the basic criterion by which a pupil is advanced to the next level. Required proficiency at a grade level shall be based on the Standards adopted by the State of New Jersey and the performance standards set by the district.

Retention

Retention describes the process whereby a pupil is not promoted to the next grade level. It does not include high school pupils who fail to earn credit in one or more courses and require additional years to graduate.

The retention of pupils is generally not an effective means of meeting district standards. If a child is not meeting minimum proficiency standards, retention may be considered in exceptional circumstances such as frequent absence, and the maturity level of the child. In no case will a child be retained without the approval of the parent.

Pupils who are retained will have a specific educational plan developed to remediate problems that caused academic failure.

N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.9

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Grades K-5

Pupils will be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially and emotionally. Pupils will normally spend one year at each grade level.

Retention

Retention is generally not an effective strategy to enable pupils to meet minimum standards. Pupils who fall below grade level expectations should be reviewed by the Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) team and alternative strategies developed. These might include basic skills assistance, a modified instructional program, additional instructional time and referral to the Child Study Team for resource center placement. Retention may be considered when a child is not meeting minimum proficiency levels in reading and math under one or more of the following circumstances:

1. The child has been absent for over 20% of the school year
2. The child is immature socially and the retention would not cause undue social and emotional adjustment.
3. The parents request the retention.

Whenever retention is being considered the teacher will confer with the parents, the I&RS Team, the Child Study Team, where applicable, and the building principal. The building principal will then make a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools who will have final approval.

Grades 6 through 8

Intermediate pupils are expected to successfully complete course requirements in English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Foreign Language and Physical education.

Course Failures

When a pupil fails one or more subjects he/she will be expected to make up the course requirements by attending a summer school, through tutoring and passing a make-up exam or assignment. If the pupil is unable to demonstrate proficiency in the failed course the principal may require that the pupil repeat the course in the following year.

Pupils who are unable or unwilling to meet course requirements in two or more subjects will be referred to the Child Study Team or I&RS Team and a modified program will be developed. Pupils who are at risk of failing the 8th grade proficiency assessment will be given basic skills assistance.

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Grades 9 –12

Regular education pupils are required to meet all of the requirements of the State of New Jersey as well as the requirements of the district in order to earn a high school diploma. When a pupil fails a required course they will demonstrate proficiency by attending a summer school or through tutoring and passing a make-up exam. Pupils may also be required to repeat the course in the following school year.

Pupils are required to meet the New Jersey Department of Education graduation requirements under N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1.

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