

Retention, Acceleration and Early Graduation Procedures

Decisions about the retention or acceleration of students may be made after notification of, explanation to, and consultation with a student's parents or guardians. Principals may grant waivers to the timelines for retention or acceleration when they determine that circumstances warrant such waivers. Principals cannot waive the required criteria or procedures for retention or acceleration.

Retention: Grades K-8

No later than the second parent-teacher conference or third grade report, parents or teachers will notify the principal about students who should be considered for retention for the following year. A staffing that may include the principal, counselor, appropriate teacher or teachers, parents and other appropriate staff will be held to develop a plan to assess the student's progress for the remainder of the school year. The assessment should include the student's age, maturity, academic, social, physical and emotional status and/or progress and predicted growth, benefit and/or progress if retention is approved. The plan must include a timeline for regularly updating parents informally or formally about the student's progress.

Before the end of the school year, a staffing will be held to determine whether the student should be retained. Final decisions regarding retention rest with school authorities. If retention is approved, a written explanation signed by the principal and parent will be entered into the student's education records file. If retention is recommended by staff but not approved because of a disagreement with parents, a written explanation signed by the principal and/or parent will be entered into the student's education records file.

Acceleration: Grades K-9

Requests by staff or parents to accelerate students commencing September of the next year must be made before the end of the third quarter of the current school year. Requests for acceleration to occur during the current year may be considered at the principal's discretion. Such considerations are dependent on items such as availability of staff, resources and time to process such requests. Students must meet the following required evaluation criteria before they are approved for acceleration:

1. Students will have demonstrated academic classroom achievement above average in all areas and especially in reading, writing and math as evidenced by report cards and/or teacher narratives;
2. The results of a standardized achievement test must indicate achievement at the 90th percentile or better on composite test results;
3. Results of a psychological test must indicate an ability level and social stability that would predict success in the upper one-quarter of the class the student would be entering; and

4. The student should rate at the “exceeds” level on state benchmark tests and work samples in reading, writing and math at appropriate grade levels.

When the required evaluation criteria results are available, a staffing that may include the principal, counselor, appropriate teacher or teachers, parents and other appropriate staff will be held to assess the student’s age, maturity, academic, social, physical and emotional status and/or progress and predicted growth, benefit and/or progress if acceleration is approved. The building principal will report in writing the findings and recommendations of the staffing to the superintendent. The superintendent will make the final decision and inform the student’s parents in writing.

Students accelerated to the ninth grade are required to earn the same number of credits and meet the same requirements for credit attainment as all students who graduate from Siuslaw High School.