

## **Decision to Promote/Retain**

### Directions for Completions Grades 6-8

#### **Consideration of Retention**

The decision to retain a student should be made on an individual case by case basis. There should be compelling rationale when this decision is made. If there is a decision to retain a student, list the compelling reasons that an additional year at this grade level is supportive of the student. Determine what different and/or additional supports/ interventions will be intentionally provided to ensure student success if the decision is made to retain.

Sites should take into account multiple data points when determining whether to retain a student.

#### **Directions for Completing the *Decision to Promote or Retain Form***

1. Fill in the student information at the top of the form.
2. Check whether the decision is to promote or to retain.
3. Check the sources of information used when determining whether to promote or retain the student.
4. List the Tier 1, 2, & 3 interventions implemented, dates implemented, results, and steps for next school year.
5. Have all parties sign the form.

#### **Evidence to consider when determining whether to retain a student (Literacy):**

- Class Grades
- Site and classroom assessments
- Instructional reading level
- Formative and Summative Assessments or Measures of Academic Progress
- Units of Study writing samples

#### **Evidence to consider when determining whether to retain a student (Math):**

- Site and classroom assessments
- Formative and summative Assessments or Measures of Academic Progress
- End-of-Year Test/End-of-Course Exam Data
- Class grades

### **Additional Considerations for English Learners**

English learners with fewer than three years of English language instruction generally should not be retained. They may be recommended for retention if, 1. they are also not making adequate yearly progress in acquired English, and 2. staff and parents jointly decide it is in the best interest of the child.

### **Additional Considerations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities as identified according to the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are expected to reach the same grade-level expectations as non-disabled students, unless these expectations have been modified as part of their Individual Education Program (IEP). Students with disabilities must be provided appropriate accommodations and modifications as outlined in their IEP to achieve grade level standards.

If a student who has an IEP is a candidate for retention, a Supplemental IEP Meeting should be held in place of the required parent/guardian conference. At this meeting, the team will review progress on goals, update present levels of performance and consider additional changes to the IEP as needed. It should be documented on the Team Action page that retention was discussed and that associated documents were provided. The IEP Team does not make final recommendations regarding promotion and retention.

### **Parent Appeal Process**

Schools must provide parents/guardians an opportunity to appeal the decision of the assigned classroom teacher. The appeal process is outlined in District Procedure AR 5123(e). In accordance with the law, a decision by the assigned classroom teacher(s) to promote or retain a student cannot be overturned unless the decision is “determined to be a direct result of clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency.”