

Hardeman County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Promotion and Retention	Descriptor Code: 4.603	Issued Date: 03/11/10
		Rescinds: 4.603	Issued: 12/16/99

1 Students will normally progress annually in sequential order from grade to grade. The professional
2 staff will place students at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally.
3 Retentions may be made when, in the judgment of the teacher, such retentions are in the best interest of
4 the students. Decisions to retain are subject to review and approval of the principal after consultation
5 with the teacher.

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7 In order to enhance the opportunity for remediation, students with problems shall be identified as early
8 as possible in the school year. Parents shall be notified when problems are identified and shall be in-
9 formed periodically of remedial efforts and given progress reports.

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11 Before a student is retained, the parents shall be informed in writing and shall be requested to participate
12 in a conference at least six (6) weeks before the end of the school year.

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14 The following factors shall be considered in making a decision on promotion and retention:¹

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16 1. ***Mastery of essential competencies.*** Students shall have mastered essential skills sufficiently to
17 ensure a likelihood of success at the next grade level.
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19 2. ***Special procedures for special students.*** Students who have been identified as having special
20 problems, including high risk students and others with special needs, shall be given special con-
21 sideration. Placement of students with IEPs shall be determined by the IEP-Team.
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23 3. ***Flexible placement.*** Use of conditional promotion, remedial summer programs, assignment to
24 transitional classes, and other approaches to meeting the needs of students shall be given con-
25 sideration.
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27 4. ***Attendance.*** Attendance shall become a relevant factor only when excessive absenteeism becomes
28 an educational problem.²
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30 5. ***Conduct.*** Retention shall not be used as a disciplinary measure.
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32 6. ***Previous retention.*** Except under unusual circumstances, students shall not be retained more
33 than once in the same grade.
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35 7. ***Grade level.*** Retentions in grades 1-8

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37 The generally accepted practice is that a student who does not make passing grades in reading in
38 either the first or second grade should be retained in that grade. For grades three through eight,
39 at least two F's (yearly average in the major subject areas) are necessary for retention. Students
40 in the regular school program who are capable of making passing grades but fail to do so, may
41 be socially promoted under the following conditions:
42

Promotion and Retention

1. No student in grades 1-6 may be socially promoted unless having previously repeated a grade.
2. Generally, no student shall be socially promoted into grade seven unless he/she has previously repeated two grades.
3. No student shall be socially promoted to the ninth grade unless he/she has repeated one year in grade seven or eight. Should a student reach the seventh grade without previous retention, he/she may not enter the ninth grade on a social promotion without having repeated two years after entering the seventh grade.
4. A socially promoted student must be given a non-passing grade and the notion "Socially Promoted" shall be recorded on the records.

Once the decision to retain has been made:

1. A report of each student retained shall be made to the director of schools;
2. Documentation verifying student deficiencies shall be placed in the student's record;
3. Parents shall have the right to appeal any decision through appeal procedures established by board policy; and
4. The teacher shall be consulted at each level of the appeal procedure.

Educational experiences for the repeated year shall be varied in order to provide an appropriate instructional program. Variations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. different teacher(s);
2. different techniques and strategies;
3. different materials; and
4. varying lengths of time per subject and/or physical setting in classroom.

For the purpose of determining the effectiveness of retention toward improving student achievement, the progress of retained students shall be monitored for at least three (3) years.

Legal References:

1. TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.05(3)(b)
2. TCA 49-2-203(b)(7); TCA 49-6-3002

Cross References:

Grading System 4.600
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Attendance 6.200