

## **POLICY 5123**

### **PROMOTION/RETENTION**

#### **1:0 CONDITIONS**

- 1:1 The student who neither experiences learning problems nor exhibits special needs, completes the elementary and middle school levels in nine years (K-8). A variety of learning challenges may be identified in some students. This situation may require the promotion/retention option to foster a child's success.
  - 1:1.1 The T.B.S.T. and Team Review will be required as a guideline for action.
  - 1:1.2 Each individual child and his/her particular needs must be examined in the unique light of his/her individuality and our philosophy of high standards and high expectations.
  - 1:1.3 Research suggests that a very small percentage of non-promoted children demonstrate reasonable growth and achievement during the repeated year.
  - 1:1.4 Every attempt will be made to address individual needs prior to non-promotion, i.e. Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Title I, Student Success Plans, After School/Summer Tutoring.

#### **2:0 POLICY PURPOSE**

- 2:1 To express a philosophical statement which supports the educational programs of Grades K-12, in the Fairhaven Schools and offers the student an opportunity for individual, continued progress toward high standards and high expectations.
- 2:2 To provide a philosophical framework for individual diagnosis and various programs under Chapter 71B of the General Laws which provide maximum social and intellectual integration.

#### **3:0 POLICY STATEMENT**

- 3:1 All children enter Kindergarten at different levels of preparedness; early childhood teachers need to plan instruction appropriate to the wide range of developmental levels and abilities. All teachers will need to focus instruction to meet the wide range of needs and differences of students assigned to their classes.
- 3:2 When a child does not make the average progress toward achievement of grade level benchmarks, a T.B.S.T. or Team Review should be conducted by April 15<sup>th</sup> to diagnose the student's needs and determine the most appropriate intervention and/or remediation plan for grade level placement. Parents must comply with promotional decisions emanating from the T.B.S.T. In many cases the child would be better served to move on to another level consistent with his/her chronological age with the provision of diagnosis of the child's problem and a change in program at the next level as directed by evaluative results.
- 3:3 Children who are not achieving at grade level benchmarks should be provided with remediation. Some children may exhibit special needs and must be provided with diagnostic services and individualized program development. Retention should be considered on an individualized basis.

**4:0 PROFESSIONAL ACTION/DIRECTION**

4:1 The Superintendent shall review and monitor on a continuing basis all promotion and retention practices as well as the standards for the same. He/she may recommend the approval of administrative regulations which will allow for the complete diagnostic evaluation of children who are not making average progress towards achieving grade level benchmarks and who are being considered for retention at a particular level. This diagnostic examination will be in keeping with both the needs of the child and the regulatory requirements set forth by General Laws, Chapter 71B (Chapter 766), and PL 94-142.

**PROMOTION/RETENTION GUIDELINES**

- 4:1.1 Each elementary student will be considered for non-promotion on an individual basis. This will occur at a meeting called by the elementary school principal, and will include teachers, parents, and/or support staff. Non-promotion issues may include **but be limited** to failure to achieve grade level benchmarks and failure of reading and/or math for two (2) consecutive years.
- 4:1.2 All Hastings Middle School students will be retained in grade if any of the following are applicable.
- Student fails Mathematics and English for the school year.
  - Student fails two (2) consecutive years of either Math or English.
  - Student fails three (3) or four (4) academic subjects during a school year (Science, Social Studies, Reading, Foreign Language, Mathematics, English).
- 4:1.3 Students of Hastings Middle School – There are times a student with a sound academic background may fail a subject due to unforeseen circumstances. These students should be assessed on a 1-1 basis looking at past history (testing, grades and attendance). These students should be evaluated by a team comprised of the principal, guidance counselor, teacher, curriculum director, and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil/Personnel Services. In such cases students may be allowed to attend summer classes in order to gain credit for promotion to the next grade level. Students who fail an academic class during a school year and are given approval by the team to attend summer classes for promotion, will need to meet the following requirements:
- Students must meet the goals specified in their Student Success Plan.
  - Students must meet with their parents and guidance counselor to review summer school requirements.
  - Students must successfully complete the summer school classes and pass a placement exam to earn credit.
  - Students who meet guidelines will be eligible for any federal or state summer programs approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- 4:1.4 All Fairhaven High School students:
- Students in Grade 9 and 10 must successfully complete/pass English and mathematics coursework to be promoted to the next grade.
  - Students in Grade 11 must pass their current year of English to be promoted to the next grade.

- c. Students must have earned at least the following number of credits:

| <u>Class of</u> | <u>2003</u>    | <u>2004</u>    | <u>2005</u>    |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| To become a:    | Credits Earned | Credits Earned | Credits Earned |
| Sophomore       | -              | 20             | 20             |
| Junior          | 39             | 40             | 40             |
| Senior          | 63             | 60             | 60             |

- d. Students who fail a subject with a grade of less than 50 cannot remediate that course for credit in summer/evening school without the permission of the Principal or his/her designee.
- e. Students in Grades 9 and 10 who fail English and/or mathematics coursework must pass the course through remedial programs for credit at Fairhaven High School.

**Adopted:** November 6, 1974

**Revised:** June 29, 1994  
December 4, 2002  
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