

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent/Guardian Involvement

5411.01 Student Promotion, Retention, and Placement

The District has the sole discretion to make promotion, retention, and placement decisions for its students, consistent with state and federal law and the District's In-District Schools of Choice practice.

A. Student Promotion and Retention

The building principal will attempt to consult with a student's parent/guardian before deciding to retain a student, advance a student to the next grade mid-year, or allow a student to skip a grade level. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the building principal's decision about promotion or retention, the Superintendent or designee will make the final decision.

B. Student Placement

The Superintendent or designee will determine a student's classroom and building placement based on District needs, available space, and educational expertise, consistent with state and federal law and the District's In-District Schools of Choice Practice. The District's placement decision is final. Nothing in this section may be construed to limit or modify rights under state or federal laws applicable to students with disabilities, including the right to have placement decisions made by an IEP or Section 504 Team.

C. In-District Schools of Choice

A parent may request that their student be placed in a different school within the District following the procedure at 5411.01-F. The District reserves the right to suspend or eliminate In-District Schools of Choice at any time.

A student who is the victim of a violent criminal offense at school may transfer to another public school in the District outside of the In-District Schools of Choice procedures, if available. A student who attends a Title I school in the District that has not made adequate yearly progress as defined by state and federal law for 2 or more consecutive years or who is attending a persistently dangerous school may transfer to another public school in the District outside of the In-District Schools of Choice procedures, if available. The Superintendent or designee will notify parents/guardians if their student is eligible to transfer under this Policy.

This Policy incorporates the definitions for "violent criminal offense" and "persistently dangerous school" contained in the Michigan State Board of Education's Statewide Safe School Choice Policy.

D. Nontraditional Programs

The District may operate nontraditional programs to meet the needs of all students. Nontraditional programs may include alternative education or virtual settings. The building principal or designee will attempt to consult with a student's parent/guardian before finalizing a decision to move a student to a nontraditional program. If the parent/guardian disagrees with the building principal's or designee's decision, the Superintendent or designee will make the final decision. Nothing in this section may be construed to limit or modify rights under state or federal laws applicable to students with disabilities, including the right to have placement decisions made by an IEP or Section 504 Team.

E. Read by Grade Three Law Retention

Students must demonstrate a third grade reading level before being promoted to fourth grade. Pursuant to Michigan law, a third grade student may not enroll in fourth grade unless the student: (1) scores less than 1 grade level behind on the third grade state English Language Arts (ELA) assessment; (2) demonstrates a third grade reading level through performance on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the State Superintendent; or (3) demonstrates a third grade reading level through a "pupil portfolio," containing multiple work samples, that evidences competency in all third grade state ELA standards.

If a third grade student scores 1 grade level or more below current grade level on the state ELA assessment, the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) will notify the student's parent/guardian and the District that the student may be retained. The student's parent/guardian may request a good cause exemption to the retention requirement. The exemption must be requested within 30 calendar days after the date of the CEPI notification and must be directed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent or designee will determine whether good cause exists to grant the exemption request in accordance with state law.

Upon parent/guardian request, a District official will meet with the parent/guardian to discuss the retention requirement and the standards and processes for a good cause exemption.

The District will adhere to all procedures and requirements for retention and for granting any exemptions under state law.

Legal authority: 20 USC 7912; MCL 380.1278a, 380.1278b, 380.1280f

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