

## STUDENT RETENTION

### POLICY

Cumulative research demonstrates that the potential for negative effects consistently outweighs the potential for positive outcomes with respect to grade retention.

Accordingly, educational practice has shifted to the almost exclusive use of promotion with intervention for those students who are at academic risk. Further, the provincial document entitled Reporting Student Progress: Policy and Practice 2008 states “In the primary years, students should not repeat a year.”

In the Vancouver Island North School District, promotional practices are expected to be in alignment with research findings. Students will not normally repeat a program of studies in elementary grades or otherwise be retained in a grade to join a younger age group. Each school is expected to develop appropriate intervention strategies. The responsibility for all student placements in educational programs rests with the School Principal.

### - REGULATIONS -

#### **Kindergarten to Grade 3**

1. Primary students should not be retained.
2. The School Principal must identify educational research which supports any special circumstances where the School Based Team is considering retention.

#### **Grades 4 – 7**

1. Vancouver Island North School District strongly believes that retention of intermediate students is not in the best interest of the student.
2. If grade retention is under consideration the School Based Team must:
  - 2.1 review all current assessment information concerning the student’s progress and development;
  - 2.2 review all intervention strategies attempted;
  - 2.3 consider all available options for supporting the student in an age-appropriate environment;
  - 2.4 review all current research;
  - 2.5 meet with the principal and parent/s (or guardian) of the child to discuss the reasons for the proposed retention, and to listen to the concerns of the parent/s (or guardian). If at the end of the exchange of information, the parent/s (or guardian) does not agree to retention, the student is not retained.

3. If retention is still being considered after this review, the School Principal must consult with the Assistant Superintendent and reach agreement.
4. The School Principal should inform parents in writing no later than May 30th with the final decision regarding student placement.

### **Appeals**

1. Parents / guardians may refer to BYLAW #2 – Appeals if they wish to appeal the Principal’s decision regarding the placement of their child. This bylaw applies to decisions made to retain a student and to decisions made to promote a student which are contrary to the request of the parents / guardians.