

Bigfork School District No. 38

INSTRUCTION

2421

Promotion/Retention

The Board is dedicated to total and continuous development of each student enrolled. Original placement of a child in a school shall be dependent upon the student's academic, social, and emotional abilities as well as chronological age. A student in the regular school program shall not be placed more than one grade level below or above that commensurate with his chronological age. Exceptions to this guideline require approval by parents, staff, and principal.

The District has academic standards that students must achieve at each grade level for promotion to the next grade. These standards, as prescribed for each grade level through the District scope and sequence, are identified in the course of study. In addition to these standards, test scores, grades, teacher-principal recommendations, and other pertinent data will be used to determine promotion.

Retention of students is a process that is followed when, in the judgment of the professional staff, it is in the best interest of the student. The primary grades are suggested as the most appropriate time for retention. However, retention may be considered at any grade level.

When facts indicate that retention is in the best interest of the student's academic progress, there must be close cooperation between the parents and all school personnel involved. Each child will have individual consideration, and decisions will be made only after a careful study of facts relating to all phases of the child's growth and development. The child's academic achievement level and mental abilities are important, but physical and social characteristics are also contributing factors. A decision should be based on sufficient data, collected over a period of time and motivated by a desire to place the child in the school program where he will be the most successful.

The superintendent is authorized to establish procedures to implement this policy.

Adoption Date: October 16, 2000