

Statement of Policy

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools shall follow a set process when making a decision to retain a student in a grade based on a request by parents/guardians.

Rationale

Decisions made for struggling learners are complex, multifaceted decisions that have long-lasting, life-impacting effects. A significant body of research indicates that retaining a student in the same grade rarely results in long-term academic gains and often has a negative impact on student achievement and social-emotional outcomes. Schools use the Student Learning Model (SLM) to ensure that students have access to the learning supports they require in order to achieve the academic progress they are capable of attaining. At times, we receive requests from parents/guardians to retain students. This policy has been developed to support school teams and parents/guardians with student retention conversation and decision-making.

Authority

- The Education Act, 1995 Section 175 (1)(a)

Guiding Principles

1. Procedures shall be established for the school division to support parents/guardians in making informed decisions regarding student retention.
2. A document outlining research on the effects of grade retention of students shall be prepared and be the basis of common understanding.
3. Programming conversations will take place throughout the school year; however, decisions for student placement should take place after the start of Term 3 of the school year.
4. Parent/guardian decision for retention may be honoured only once within the student's Kindergarten to Grade 8 programming.

Process

1. Each school will form a team that may consist of, but not be limited to, the classroom teacher(s), Learning Assistance Teacher, administrator, parent(s)/guardian(s) and other school division personnel applicable to the situation (e.g. speech and language pathologist, school counselor, etc.) in order to support parents/guardians in making an informed decision.
2. The network superintendent will be contacted and informed of the parent/guardian request and may provide support for team discussions.

3. The school team will use the SLM to guide parents/guardians through the division intervention responses that become increasingly more frequent and intensive.
4. Research on the effects of grade retention will be shared with parents/guardians. In cases where the parents/guardians choose to have their child retained in a grade contrary to the recommendations of the school team, parent/guardian wishes shall supersede.
5. The completed and signed *Retention Request by Parent/Guardian* form shall be placed in the student's Cumulative Folder.

Documents/Forms

- Student Retention and the Impact on Students
- Retention Request by Parents/Guardians

References

The Education Act, 1995 Section 175 (1)(a)

Date Approved

January 18, 2013

Amended

February 19, 2021