



STUDENT RETENTION AND ACCELERATION POLICY

This policy was approved by the Mountain Phoenix Governing Council on March 30, 2016.

Purpose

At Mountain Phoenix we are very careful and thorough in reviewing enrollment applications and placing children in the correct class. We base the placement on the developmental level of the whole child--emotional, social, physical, and intellectual. The school will only move a child (retain or accelerate), if it is determined later that the placement was not correct and is not a good match for the child. This policy defines the procedures and rules for retaining students in their current grade and promoting students to a higher grade.

Grade Level Retention Definition (Grades 1-8)

Retention is defined as having a child repeat the current grade the following year.

Identifying Grade Level Retention Candidates

The following policies are intended to assist the staff of Mountain Phoenix and parents in identifying those children who are most likely to benefit from retention and those who are not:

- If the student is failing to make normal progress, the parents must be notified by the Fall conferences, so that the teachers and home may cooperate in helping him/her achieve greater success. This communication is not to discuss retention, but to facilitate working as a team to help the student succeed.
- If the student fails to make appropriate progress by the end of the first semester or January conferences, the parents will be invited to a meeting with a team which includes the child's class teacher, Director of Education, and Special Education teachers, if appropriate, to discuss the student's progress and possible retention.
- By the end of March, the team will work toward consensus to decide what is in the child's best interest. The Director of Education will make the final decision, based on recommendations from the team.
- In the event that excessive absence from school negatively impacts a student's learning in their current grade such that advancement to the next grade becomes a concern, the class teacher and Director of Education will discuss the implications for student retention with parents.

Grade Acceleration Definition

Grade Acceleration is defined as advancing a student more than one grade level.

Acceleration in all Grades (1-8)

In the rare situation when a child is being considered for acceleration, the parents will be invited to a meeting with a team which includes the child's class teacher and Director of Education to discuss the student's progress and possible acceleration. Decisions to permit a student to skip to the next grade level are very unusual and shall be made by the Director of Education, after completing the evaluation process. Parents will be notified of the decision by the Director of Education.

Appeal Process

If a family does not agree with the decision made by the Director of Education, they may bring their appeal to the Governing Council through the established Conflict Resolution Process (see GC Communication Policy) whose decision is considered final. The family may then agree to the decision or return to a district run school and seek another avenue for grade placement.

POLICY HISTORY

C.R.S. 22-7-1013, IKE, Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students (possible waiver)

Original: proposed by the PTF on February 24, 2016.
Approved on March 30, 2016.