

RETENTION AND ACCELERATION

In accordance with the Eastmont School District's mission, the Board encourages the placement of each student in a learning program and/or grade that is appropriate to his/her academic, creative, social, emotional, and physical needs. This policy may or may not apply to students with Section 504 or Individual Education Programs (IEP).

Retention

Students are generally not retained, and shall be promoted with their age and grade level peers. Students meeting standard are considered to have been promoted to the next grade level after the completion of the school year and the recording of final grades. The Eastmont Board of Directors believes that retention at grade level should be considered one of the last possible interventions. Therefore, alternative instructional practice in reading, writing, and/or mathematics will be established at the district and building levels for students who are not working to grade level standards. It is the responsibility of school staff members to make every effort to adjust the student's program and the classwork according to the individual student's abilities and achievements so the student may progress from one grade to the next on an annual basis in grades kindergarten through eight. Such interventions will be implemented in cooperation with the student and parent/guardian.

Acceleration

Students who demonstrate exceptional competency may be accelerated in areas of academic strength, as well as an entire grade. Acceleration is to be based on consideration of the best educational interest of each student. Factors which are to be taken into consideration as they relate to the individual student are the student's educational achievement in relation to the district's student learning objectives; physical, social and emotional maturity, and age. Acceleration of a student in grades kindergarten through eighth shall in all cases result only from a thorough study of all these factors.

The superintendent shall establish procedures for both retention and acceleration in accordance with District's mission and strategic plan. The superintendent shall ensure that parents/guardians and students are annually notified that "Request for Acceleration" and "Request for Retention" forms are available in all school offices.

Each principal shall follow District procedures in processing each retention or acceleration request and shall ensure that each request is submitted to the superintendent for review within thirty (30) days of receipt. The superintendent, or designee, shall review each request to ensure current policy and procedures have been followed and shall communicate to the parent/guardian, in writing, final approval or disapproval of each retention or acceleration request within forty-five (45) days of original receipt by the principal.