

GRADE ADVANCEMENT: RETENTION, PROMOTION & ACCELERATION OF STUDENTS

**CODE G-9
(Mandatory)¹**

Policy

It is the policy of the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and its member districts for each student to progress in his or her educational program by reaching a standard of achievement necessary to progress from grade to grade.

Definitions

1. Acceleration is the advancement of a student by more than one grade beyond the current grade level.
 2. Promotion is the single grade step most students take from year to year.
 3. Retention allows a student to repeat all or part of a grade in order to more fully prepare for the work of the next grade.
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- I. Each child develops physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially at an individual rate; therefore not every student will complete twelve grade levels of work in the same amount of time. Some student will need more than twelve years, while others may need less.
 - II. Students who are working under an Individual Education Plan will be promoted or retained in accordance with their IEP.
 - III. Acceleration
 - a. Eligible students may be considered for accelerated status.
 - b. Before considering acceleration, actions such as inclusion in a full or part-time gifted program, enrichment in the classroom, or other advanced courses through correspondence, distance learning, or through other institutions should be examined.
 - c. Acceleration should be considered after enrichment opportunities have been thoroughly explored.
 - d. Acceleration may include moving from one school to another school (e.g. from grade 6 to grade 7 or grade 8 to grade 9). Consent of both the sending and receiving schools and transportation arrangements would be required.
 - IV. Retention
 - a. Focus the use of retention in the early primary grades at which time research indicates it is most effective.
 - b. Standardized or criterion referenced material will be used to assist in the decision making process for retention (e.g. Light's Retention Scale).
 - c. Students not meeting the completion requirements may be considered for retention.

- d. A student being considered for retention may be moved to the next grade if accompanied by a plan to address the specific areas of weakness and to demonstrate proficiency in those areas.
 - e. Alternatives to retention, such as remediation in class or out, tutoring in class or after school, mentoring, cooperative efforts with families, or summer school should be compared to retention for effectiveness, especially when a student has been previously retained.
- V. The final decision will be made by the Principal after consultation with parents/guardians, classroom teacher and other professional staff. Parents may appeal a decision of the Principal to the Superintendent.
- VI. Promotion, retention and acceleration decisions will be based on the extent to which a student is meeting the standards established by the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities as well as other relevant factors, including social, emotional, physical and mental growth, past academic performance, behavior, motivation, and attendance.

Implementation

The Superintendent and/or Principal will develop rules to implement this policy that will specify a process for determining the promotion, retention or acceleration of individual students.

Legal Reference(s): VT State Board of Education Manual of Rules & Practices: §2120.2.2 (b)
Cross Reference: Student Attendance (F25)

	Date Adopted	Replaces Policy
Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union	10/25/10	11/24/08 Grade Advancement Retention, Promotion and Acceleration of Students
Ira Town School District	See RSWSU	None
Middletown Springs Town School District	10/14/10	11/20/08 Grade Advancement, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students
Poultney Town School District	10/19/10	5/19/09 Grade Advancement, Retention, Promotion, and Acceleration of Students
Tinmouth Town School District	11/15/10	6/8/09 Grade Advancement: Retention, Promotion and Acceleration of Students
Wells Town School District	11/10/10	4/22/09 Grade Advancement Retention, Promotion and Acceleration of Students