



**CENTRALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD POLICY #2421  
RETENTION AND PROMOTION**

The Board recognizes that the rate of physical, social, emotional and academic growth will vary among individual students. Since each student grows at his/her own rate, these individual growth characteristics will be recognized in classroom programming.

After a student has completed a year of study at a specific grade level, he/she will be promoted to the next grade. Based on an extensive body of research on retention, the Centralia School District generally does not support retaining students in the same grade for a second year in elementary and middle schools. Principals and teachers will work with parents to find instructional alternatives to retention that will give student the opportunity to be education with their peers. Exceptions to retain or advance a student outside of normal grade progression should be rare but will be made when, in the judgement of their professional staff, retention or acceleration is in the best educational interest of the student. The reason for retention or advancement shall be documented according to the procedure 2421P that accompany this policy.

The superintendent will establish procedures which provide that parents will be informed at least one (1) quarter in advance of any retention decision on the part of the school. With the exception of third grade students described below, the final decision regarding placement, promotion, acceleration, or retention will rest with the principal.

The procedures may include an exception to the process and timeline for third grade students subject to grade placement requirements in Policy 2107, Ready and Early Literacy Program. If the school principal and parent cannot agree on the appropriate grade placement and improvement strategies from the list of available options, for a third grade student who scored below basic on the state assessment, the parent's request will be honored.

Students in grades K-8 shall not be retained twice.

The superintendent/designee is charged with the responsibility of developing the administrative procedure to accompany this policy.

**Adoption Date:** January 1980

**Revised:** June 1999, May 2007, June 2011, April 2020

**Classification:** Optional