

It is the Regional School Unit No. 24 (RSU) Board's (RSUB) intent to provide sequential instructional programming that provides equitable opportunity for students to acquire the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet content standards and performance indicators at each grade level. The RSUB recognizes that within levels of learning, there are differences among students in their intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development, and that individual students may be more proficient in some content areas of the Maine System of Learning Results than in others. Students may also differ in their progress toward achieving the cross-curricular skills identified in the *Guiding Principles* of the Maine System of Learning Results. For the purpose of this policy, "parent" refers to the student's parent and/or legal guardian.

### A. Criteria

1. Achievement levels on performance indicators underneath content area standards of the Maine System of Learning Results as demonstrated through classroom assessments, common assessments, standardized tests, portfolios, performances, exhibitions, projects, and other elements of the RSU's local assessment system;
2. Achievement of cross-curricular skills associated with the *Guiding Principles* of the Maine System of Learning Results;

3. Participation and success in remedial programs, special education programs, tutoring, standards recovery, summer school, and/or other opportunities for success;
4. Potential benefit from a repetition of a grade level;
5. Potential for success if accelerated;
6. Attendance;
7. Social and emotional maturity;
8. Health;
9. Age in relation to placement;
10. Program options;
11. Student work habits and behavior; and
12. Parental concerns.

### **B. Retention**

Parents should be notified as early as possible in the event that a repetition of a grade level is being considered. Parents will be informed of the remediation options available to students such as tutoring, online/internet-based resources, after-school programs, and summer school. Whenever possible, decisions concerning repetition of a grade level should be made through a conference involving parents, the student's teacher(s), the Building Administrator (BA), and as appropriate, the school counselor, special education director, other professional staff, and/or consultants. Advancement to the next grade level may be made conditional on successful completion of the current grade level.

The BA shall be responsible for making the final decision regarding retention. A parent who is dissatisfied with the BA's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

### **C. Acceleration of Learning**

Decisions regarding acceleration shall be made by the BA in consultation with the student's teacher(s), the Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator, and other professional staff or consultants, as appropriate. A parent who is dissatisfied with the BA's decision may appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

### **D. Transfer Students**

For students who transfer into the RSU from another state or educational program not required to meet the content standards of the Maine System of Learning

Results, the BA will determine the value of the student's prior educational experience for the purpose of grade level placement and successful completion of the graduation requirements specified in policy IKF - Graduation Requirements, as required for a high school diploma.

**Legal Reference**

Ch. 127 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rule)

**Cross References**

IKA - Assessment & Reporting System

IKAB - Reporting Student Progress

IKF - Graduation Requirements

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