
Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300

The Background:

State Board of Education Rule 0520-01-03-.05(3)(b) requires Tennessee school districts to adopt and implement promotion and retention policies for students in grades kindergarten through eighth (K-8). The State Board's Promotion and Retention Policy was originally adopted in 1986 and has not been updated since. Given the Department of Education's focus on literacy and early foundations, this final read item presents significant revisions to the policy to ensure best practices across the state for promotion and retention.

The policy is designed to set minimum standards for promotion and retention strategies, and the expectation is that districts will add district specific requirements. The updated policy will provide better support for districts as they develop promotion strategies to help ensure students are prepared to move on to the next grade level.

Since first reading the following changes have been made based on public feedback:

- **Page 3:** Clarifies that retention decisions for students with disabilities must be made in consultation with the student's IEP team.
- **Page 3:** Clarifies that progress on a retained student must be reported to parents a minimum of three (3) times per year.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.