

Minnesota River Conference Middle School/Junior High Model Retention Policy
Proposed by the administrators of the conference amended by BPHS 2-5-08

Junior high/middle school educational goals should always help students to achieve and progress towards graduation. Social promotion is not supported. Skills to ensure future success must be acquired before advancement to high school (grades 9-12).

This policy is meant to meet basic standards. Individual districts will certainly amend this document as necessary.

Part I: STANDARD Students in grades 7 & 8 will demonstrate a core set of knowledge before moving on to the next grade level. Students who fail two or more core (English, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics) classes * will be retained at grade level in all classes for the following school year. Students may attend summer school to finish work to earn credit. The specific department and administration will approve this work. Successful completion of this work will determine advancement to the next grade level.

Part II: Preventive Measures Retention is one of many intervention options in our effort to prepare students for the next level of school. Criteria for promotion will include attendance, passing grades (credits earned), NWEA Testing, social skills, teacher recommendations, IEP, parental input. As a general rule, the following guidelines will assist the student in making progress to the next grade level:

- At the beginning of the 3rd quarter, students at risk for failing two or more yearlong core classes will attend a mandatory meeting (arranged by the junior high administrator) with teachers, student, and parents. A learning contract will be written, signed and agreed upon for the remainder of the year. That contract will likely include attendance at summer school. If the student successfully completes the contract, he/she will be eligible to move on to the next grade.

If the learning contract is not completed, summer school will be required.

- Summer School offerings and learning goals will be specific for each student. Teachers will

identify the objectives for each student. All material will be distributed to the summer school

teacher.

- Summer school will be performance based. When objectives are met, student will be promoted.
- Student will be retained at the current grade level if they do not successfully complete the

objectives set up by the classroom teacher in the summer school program.

- Students may be exempted from this policy due to an IEP or 504 Plan.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation to summer school.
- Summer School programs, including specific dates, curriculum, etc. will be determined by each district.

Part III: Miscellaneous Information

Generally, a student in grades 7 or 8 will be retained only one time in those two school years (i.e. if a student is retained in 7th grade, they will not be retained in 8th grade).

Administration can supercede any part of the retention policy due to mitigating circumstances.

Parental involvement in the entire process is critical. In any retention decision, parental input will be a major component. The final decision will be made by the school district.

A single core class with a failing grade can mean summer school, but will not affect retention. * =
Three quarter grades of "F"