

Retention for Students Grades 1-8**

The Retention policy of Culver Elementary School is based on the premise that by repeating a specific grade level sometimes an individual student can benefit academically or socially. It is a recognized reality that some students may not progress physically, socially, intellectually, or emotionally at the same speed or level as peers. On occasion, it may be beneficial for some students to be retained at a specific grade level if appropriate age level social/intellectual skills have not been fully developed or demonstrated.

Ultimately, the student and his parents are responsible for the educational goals each enrolled student aspires to, or achieves. It is the school's responsibility to provide the instruction, resources, and opportunity for students to exploit their individual talent, interest, and abilities. Culver Schools are dedicated to providing each student with the best possible opportunity to reach their maximum potential.

We believe some students may benefit from repeating a grade if their social, intellectual, or physical development indicates a need to refine, develop, or reinforce the basic skills considered pre-requisite for successful achievement of the next highest grade level.

We also believe the ultimate decision concerning retention should be decided by the parents and the teacher in question. The school has the responsibility to identify the learning problems, social limitations, or other learning factors that might indicate valid reasons for retention.

In order to guarantee proper consideration for student and parent when a recommendation for retention is being considered, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

1. Candidates for retention should be identified no later than the mid-way point of the current academic year;
2. Any student considered for retention should be previously referred to the building level SAT (Student Assistance Team). This referral should generate an inquiry to investigate special education needs or other appropriate remediation possibilities;
3. Parents should be contacted no later than the end of January in the current school year. A meeting should be scheduled with the involved teacher, parents, building principal, and the counselor to analyze and discuss the reasons for recommending retention. Suggestions for remediation should also be developed at this initial meeting.
4. Special Education, individualizing instruction, and program modification should all be investigated and employed when possible prior to retention recommendation.

Culver Elementary does not endorse or condemn retention as an established practice. We believe each case needs to be analyzed and decided based on the factors and uniqueness of each situation. Each student is different and our policy is an attempt to accommodate that reality.

Proposed and existing standards required by the Oregon State Board of Education and the Oregon Department of Education suggest the school look critically at promotion policies and advancing students who have not mastered essential learning skills considered to be basic fundamentals for success in the next subsequent grade level.

NOTE: The time line suggested for notification of parents in this policy is based on all year enrollment conditions. In the event of a student transferring to the district, the recommendation for retention may be circumstantially delayed until such time as performance can be observed and accurately evaluated.