



Official Policy of Ogden Preparatory Academy

7. Students

7.31.POL Student Promotion and Retention

Effective/Revision Date: 9/15/2022

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PURPOSE

Consistent with the Parental Rights in Education Act (Utah Code 53-A-15-1400), it is the policy of the Ogden Preparatory Academy (The School) to reasonably accommodate any parent or guardian request to retain or promote a student in kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) based upon the student's academic ability, as well as the student's social, emotional, and physical maturity, as determined by the student's parents and School personnel.

REQUESTING RETENTION, PROMOTION, AND ADVANCED/SPECIALIZED COURSES

To "reasonably accommodate" parental requests means that The School will strive to make necessary and appropriate modifications and adjustments so long as the request does not impose an Undue Burden or Substantial Impact to staff and resources, while balancing essential Factors for Consideration.

In determining whether a request creates an Undue Burden or Substantial Impact, the school and district will consider the following:

- employee working conditions,
- impact to other students,
- safety and supervision on school premises and during school activities, and
- the efficient allocation of district resources.

The essential Factors for Consideration include the following:

- The parents' rights;
- Educational needs of other students;
- Academic and behavior impacts to a classroom;
- A teacher's workload;
- The assurance of a safe and efficient operation of the School; and,
- Adhering to procedures and requirements for placement in special programs.

The guiding philosophy for determining placement, acceleration, promotion, or retention will be what is in the best interest of children.

RETENTION AND PROMOTION REQUESTS

The general philosophy of the School is to encourage and assist each student to progress in a continuous growth pattern of academic achievement in harmony with the normal social and emotional development.

Most students will progress through kindergarten, elementary, junior high and high school curriculum, completing the work on a year to year basis. In arriving at a decision for student retention and promotion, The School will review and consider all relevant data listed related to Undue Burden, Substantial Impact, and Factors for Consideration listed in this policy.

Retention

Related to requests for retaining students, The School will normally follow current research which has shown that retention is usually not the optimum solution. Without early diagnosis and targeted intervention, struggling students are unlikely to catch up whether they are promoted or retained.

Other options—such as summer school, before-school and after-school programs, or extra help during the school day—could provide equivalent extra time in more instructionally effective ways.

Retention will be considered only in cases when both of the following are true: (1) a review of the data supports a reasonable expectation that the student will be able to meet or exceed grade level expectations within one academic year as a result of being retained, and (2) data related to Undue Burden, Substantial Impact, and Factors for Consideration listed in this policy support retention.

Promotion

Similar to retention, Promotion is a rare event that requires both academic and social/emotional considerations. Other options—such as advanced courses, after school enrichment, and targeted elective classes—could provide educational enhancement in structured ways that preserve the

student's linear experience of the Utah Core standards and appropriate social interactions with age-appropriate peers.

Promotion will be considered only in cases when both of the following are true: (1) a review of the data supports a reasonable expectation that the student is already able to meet or exceed grade level expectations in all subject areas at both the current grade level and the grade level to be bypassed (2) data related to Undue Burden, Substantial Impact, and Factors for Consideration listed in this policy support promotion.

ADVANCED OR SPECIALIZED COURSES

The School will attempt to reasonably accommodate a parent or guardian's request to place a student in a specialized class, a specialized program, or an advanced course when supported by data. In arriving at a decision for student placement into advanced or specialized courses, The School will review and consider all relevant data related to Undue Burden, Substantial Impact, and Factors for Consideration listed in this policy.

PROCESS FOR REVIEWING RETENTION, PROMOTION, AND ADVANCED/SPECIALIZED COURSES

Ogden Preparatory Academy will follow Utah Code 53-A-15-1400 when considering parental requests for promotion or retention.

The process will include:

1. Parent requests in writing their desire for promotion, retention, or placement in a specialized class, program, or an advanced course.
2. Principal gathers student grades, testing data, behavioral, attendance and other appropriate records for the student.
3. The principal will then set up a team meeting to discuss all information regarding the request, including all relevant data related to Undue Burden, Substantial Impact, and Factors for Consideration listed in this policy. Team members shall include the principal, parent/guardian, teacher(s), IEP/504 Team members (if applicable), and school counselor. Team members may also include the student, school psychologist, academic mentor, and/or school social worker.
4. A decision regarding whether the request can be reasonably accommodated is made based upon what the team feels is best for the child in accordance with all relevant data related to Undue Burden, Substantial Impact, and Factors for Consideration listed in this

policy. If the decision is to deny the request, the School must provide an explanation stating the reason the request cannot be accommodated.

5. If a request is denied, the parent(s) shall be informed of their right to appeal the decision through a process with the Ogden Preparatory Academy Board of Directors. The appeal must be in writing and delivered to the Board President. The Board President will set up a LEA Promotion/Retention Appeals Committee to hear the request. The LEA Promotion/Retention Appeals Committee will consist of members of the OPA District Team who were not part of the initial Team, at least one Board Member, and, where appropriate, the Special Education Coordinator.
6. The LEA Promotion/Retention Appeals Committee's decision shall be final.

Document History

Approved: 9/15/2022 Initial Creation

Legal References

Utah Code 53-A-15-1400