

## Code H: Curriculum and Instruction

<b>POLICY TITLE AND CODE</b>
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<b>GRADE RETENTION POLICY – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 8</b>
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### STATEMENT OF POLICY

Schools in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division shall follow a set process when making a decision to retain a student in a grade.

### RATIONALE

The purpose of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division is to assist parents/guardians in the formation of students' heart, mind, body and spirit. Decisions related to grade retention should be “rooted” in this purpose and be determined collaboratively.

### GUIDELINES

1. Procedures shall be established for the school division consisting of guidelines to direct school teams in the decision-making process and future educational planning for the student.
2. A document outlining current research on the effects of grade retention of students shall be prepared and be the basis of common understanding.
3. Discussion regarding grade retention should be a “last resort” intervention.

### PROCEDURES

1. Each school will form a team of classroom teacher(s), Learning Assistance Teacher, administrator, parent(s) and other school division personnel applicable to the situation (e.g. speech and language pathologist, school counselor, etc.) in order to make a decision about the grade retention of a student.
2. The school team will use the Student Learning Model (SLM) to guide them through the intervention responses that become increasingly more frequent and intensive.
3. The school team will follow the procedures outlined in *Identification, Intervention, Programming and Placement for Struggling K – 8 Students: A decision making process*.

4. If a decision is made to retain a student in a grade, a plan will be formulated that outlines interventions and supports (SLM) that will be put in place to create a successful learning experience for the student.
5. Current research on the effects of grade retention should be shared with parents. In cases where the parents choose to have their child retained in a grade contrary to the recommendations of the school team, parent wishes shall supersede. This decision should be noted in the Cumulative Folder.
6. The network superintendent will be apprised of the decision and the rationale by the school principal.

Appendix:

- Appendix A – Identification, Intervention, Programming and Placement for Struggling K-8 Students: A Decision-Making Process

## **RESOURCES**

*Understanding Catholic Education*, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Catholic Education Committee, 2007

## **DATE APPROVED**

January 18, 2013