

## Questions & Answers

### **Q: How do I know if my child is at risk of being retained?**

A: Parents should always refer to their student's Achievement Report to monitor his/her progress. Parents will be notified during regularly scheduled parent conferences and special conferences, as needed. Letters are sent home notifying parents that their child is not performing at grade level or at risk of retention. Students at risk of retention may be offered school-based supplemental instruction.

### **Q: What interventions will be provided?**

A: When students are not performing at grade level according to Reading Benchmark Assessments and Math Facts, they may be offered site-specific supplemental instruction such as, intensive small group instruction in reading and mathematics, after school tutoring, intersession, or a literacy classroom. All schools will give students the maximum opportunity to be successful. Parents will be expected to provide support at home and will be provided with parent education opportunities to learn how to support children at home.

### **Q: How can I help my child at home?**

A: Parents should contact their child's teacher for assistance. Materials and activities can be provided for reading, writing, and math practice at home. Schools often provide parent education and parents can go to our website at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net). (Select "Parent University" and then "Home Activities and Support")

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### **Q: What other program can I send my child to besides the district's programs?**

A: Parents may opt to enroll their child in an independent summer program or local tutoring agency. Children will be given the district assessments at their school site and may take the student's Achievement Report or classroom assessments to the tutoring agency to assist in determining a student's need.

### **Q: If a student does not pass the math facts portion of the promotion criteria will they be retained?**

A: Yes. Students in grades 1-5 will be given the maximum opportunity to be successful on math facts tests under standard testing conditions. If a student is in the Special Education Program, accommodations may be allowed as specified in a student's Special Education IEP.

### **Q: Do I, as a parent, have a right to say no to retention for my child?**

Upon recommendation for retention, a site Promotion Standards team will meet to review criteria/records/data with the parent. The team, including the parent, will make the final decision. Should a parent disagree with the team recommendation for retention, a parent may request to appeal the decision at the school site.

To learn more about the Promotion and Retention Policy, go to [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) and select "Retention" from the alphabetical index.



# Promotion and Retention Policy for Elementary Grades



*A Guide for Parents*

## Background

In 1996, the Board of Education approved the first of the educational improvement measures related to Promotion and Retention. Since then, a series of policies in Grades 1-5 have become part of the district's overall plan to improve student achievement by requiring students to meet specific criteria in reading and mathematics.

## Purpose

A strong step towards ending social promotion took place when the Long Beach Unified School District approved the initial Promotion and Retention policy. The Promotion and Retention policy ensures that all students acquire essential skills and attain high standards in academic achievement. At all grade levels from first through fifth grades, a promotion criterion has been established that requires a student to attain a minimum level of academic achievement prior to advancing to the next grade level.

## Expectation

The Governing Board expects students to progress through each grade level within one school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the variety of ways that students learn and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed.



# Promotion and Retention Policy for Elementary Grades

## Retention at Grade 1

First grade students must read at mid-year, first grade, in fiction and nonfiction Benchmarks AND achieve a Level 3 in addition facts sums to 10 and subtraction facts minuends to 10 by the end of the school year. If your child does not meet these expectations, he/she will be recommended for retention.

## Retention at Grade 2

Second grade students must read at the end of first grade in fiction and nonfiction Benchmarks AND achieve a Level 3 in addition and subtraction math facts by the end of the school year. If your child does not meet these expectations, he/she will be recommended for retention.

## Retention at Grade 3

Third grade students must read at the end of second grade in fiction and nonfiction Benchmarks AND achieve a Level 3 in addition and subtraction and a Level 2 in multiplication and division math facts by the end of the school year. If your child does not meet these expectations, he/she will be recommended for retention.

## Retention at Grade 4

Fourth grade students must read at the end of third grade in fiction and nonfiction Benchmarks AND achieve a Level 3 in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division math facts by the end of the school year. If your child does not meet these expectations, he/she will be recommended for retention.

## Retention at Grade 5

Fifth grade students must read at the end of fourth grade in fiction and nonfiction Benchmarks AND achieve a Level 3 in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division math facts by the end of the school year. If your child does not meet these expectations, he/she will be recommended for retention.

## Promotion and Retention Process

### Communication and Notification

- Fall and Spring Parent Conferences
- Spring Early Notification Letter

### Promotion Standards Team Meeting

- Teacher, Counselor, Administrator, & Parent

### Review and Final Decision

### Interventions

- In Class Support
- Skills Reinforced at Home

### Recommendation for Retention

Appeals may be submitted