

Grade Level Promotion and Retention of Students in KG2-5

PURPOSE: This policy establishes the process and considerations that will guide decisions about grade level promotion and retention for students in Kindergarten (KG) to Grade 5 at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada).

POLICY:

When a student enters a grade level at a developmentally appropriate age, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the student remains on track to be promoted to the next grade level. The promotion will occur at the end of each academic year, with students remaining in their age cohort.

All students in **KG to Grade 5** will be promoted to the next grade level, except in rare circumstances. The decision to retain a student in a grade level will only be taken if:

1. The school has followed a specific process, described below under "Process"
2. The school has considered a variety of factors, described below under "Considerations"

Process

When deciding whether to promote or retain a student, the process will be led by the Principal. No single individual will have the authority to decide that a student will not be promoted. The Principal will consult with the following individuals and the final decision will reflect the collective judgment of the group:

- All teachers who worked with the student over the current academic year
- The school Program Support Teacher
- The parents of the student
- Other members of the Program Planning Team

Considerations

AGS will explore all potential alternatives to retention. A student will only be retained in a grade level if the circumstances provide a compelling rationale for how and why student achievement will improve when repeating the grade.

Specifically, we will ensure that the following considerations are met:

- We will take account of a variety of elements, including the social and developmental impact on the student resulting from being separated from peers, and the capacity of the school to provide an improved, differentiated learning experience for retained students
- No student will be retained in a grade level if he or she has already been retained previously (since beginning his or her school career)

- Before retaining a student in a grade level, the school will assess the student for special needs to determine whether the student’s learning needs would be better met by an Individualized Program Plan (IPP)
- Students who are not meeting learning expectations for their grade level will be identified during the course of the school year and will be referred to the School Program Planning Team.

Grade Level Promotion and Retention of Students in 6 – 12

PURPOSE:

This policy establishes the process and considerations that will guide decisions about grade level promotion and retention for students in Grades 6-12 at Abu Dhabi Grammar School (Canada). This policy is consistent with Ministry of Education guidelines on promotion and retention.

POLICY:

If a student enters an academic grade at an appropriate age level, it is the responsibility of the school to provide a learning environment that allows the student to be promoted to the next grade. With sufficient support, all students should be promoted to the next grade.

Students who are meeting significantly fewer than expected learning outcomes should be identified as soon as possible and monitored closely by the school. Adequate support must be provided by their teachers and/or Program Planning Team (PPT). The promotion will occur at the end of each academic year, with students remaining in their age cohort to the extent possible.

All students in Grades 6-11 will be promoted to the next grade level except when they do not meet promotion requirements, as defined below.

All students on Individual Program Plans (IPPs) who meet their objectives progress to the next age-appropriate placement. All students in Grade 12 will graduate if they meet the Nova Scotia Department of Education graduation requirements.

Multiple Retentions

A student who faces multiple retentions requires additional consideration and attention. A student may be retained in a specific grade only once and a maximum of two different grades in his/her time in school.

A student cannot be retained for the third time; instead, they must be promoted and given the necessary learning support by the school.

GRADES 6 - 11

All students in Grades 6 - 11 will be promoted to the next grade level except when they do not meet the promotion requirements, as defined below.

Promotion Requirements

Students will be promoted if they have demonstrated proficiency in a sufficient number of learning outcomes in their subjects for the entire school year. Students must pass all subjects to be promoted. For the ADEK, promotion minimum pass mark for subjects is detailed in the ADEK Grades 6-11 Promotion and Retention Guidelines.

Rewriting of Examinations

Students who fail 3 subjects or less are entitled to take the re-sit examination in those subjects. Non-examination subjects do not have resit examinations.

Academic Review Committee

Students who face retention and meet Nova Scotia and ADEK's guidelines for academic review must be referred to the school's Academic Review Committee (ARC), convened by the Principal. The Committee will determine whether or not these students have demonstrated proficiency in a sufficient number of learning outcomes in the subject for the entire school year in order to pass.

The ARC must ensure that intervention plans are developed for students who are promoted after academic review.

Appeals Process

If the ARC's decision results in a student's retention, parents may appeal the decision to the school.