



Watson Lake Secondary School

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RETENTION POLICY

The Staff and School Council of Watson Lake Secondary School sincerely believe that it is not in the best interests of a student to promote him/her to a grade for which he/she is not prepared.

Although the principle of “Social Promotion” has its place for those students whose progress is impeded by factors which are beyond their control such as neurological, physical, and other special needs (and these special circumstances are addressed in a student’s Individual Education Program) we firmly believe that those students who have not demonstrated an understanding of the required concepts or have not obtained the required skill level because of insufficient effort, sporadic attendance, lack of commitment to task, or insufficient work completion, should not be promoted if:

they earned marks of less than 50% in 2 of the 4 major academic courses (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies) and have an aggregate of less than 60% in these courses;

This will apply to students in grade 8 and 9, only.

Students who make a concerted effort in their courses work but who are not successful will be offered services to assist in determining a reason for the limited progress, and may require diagnostic assessment and modified programming as part of their future education.

In the past, students have been retained based on teacher observations and student marks, but this new approach attempts to define a required level of performance and progress that identifies a minimum level of proficiency for future success.

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