

# English River Secondary School



**Grade Progression & Review Guideline**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Automatic promotion has been the norm in the state schools' education system. Therefore, policies must be developed and implemented to provide schools, students, and parents with a proper framework within which decisions will be made.

## **RATIONALE**

Students must acquire the necessary skills and competencies before progressing to the next level. However, if students do not master the defined skills and competencies, they will be advised to repeat the level.

## **AIMS:**

- To outline the principles and criteria for promotion and repetition.
- To establish an effective, accountable, and transparent framework for managing grade repetition and acceleration by schools, in collaboration with key partners.

## CRITERIA FOR GRADE REPETITION

Students covered by this policy may be considered for grade repetition if:

- They have missed 20% or more of classes for the school year for reasons of health, social, emotional, or behavioural issues, or other life circumstances, including pregnancy, and there is also evidence on record from their previous performance/profile from repeating a grade.
- They lack readiness at the start of schooling because they are functioning at a developmentally younger level than their same-age peers and there is evidence to support the view that they would benefit from repeating a grade. For example, repeating a grade will result in better social and emotional compatibility, as well as holistic development and improved academic performance.
- Developmental assessment indicates delays (cognitive, physical, social, or emotional), and there is evidence to support the view that repeating a grade may reduce the stress of trying to "keep up."
- They are far behind academically, making it unlikely they will catch up in the next grade, and there is agreement among relevant parties that with a defined support structure in place, they will have the opportunity to master the necessary established learning targets to catch up and manage at the next level.
- They are making limited academic progress despite targeted additional support.
- They are transferring from a different educational system and their level of academic performance is significantly below that expected for their age.

## **CRITERIA FOR GRADE ACCELERATION**

Students covered by this policy may be considered for grade acceleration if:

- They are consistently performing well above grade level across academic subjects, as evidenced by assessments conducted at the school and national levels.
- They are entering the state school system from a different system and have well-documented evidence that they have acquired skills that are significantly above those of their same-age peers.
- They demonstrate levels of social and emotional maturity that would enable them to adapt to being in a classroom environment with older students.
- Skipping a grade is likely to benefit their holistic development.

## **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OR GUIDELINES**

- Once a student has started the academic year in a grade, he/she should not be put back a grade.
- For students repeating or being promoted, depending on the individual case, consideration should be made as to whether the student should repeat the grade in his/her existing school or be transferred to another school.
- In exceptional circumstances, students may be allowed to repeat or skip a grade more than once or to repeat or skip more than one grade.