



Policy Manual – Students - Admissions and Placement

S.A.04 – Acceleration and Retention Policy

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model

POLICY STATEMENT

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is committed to the principle that all students should be placed in a regular classroom with their same-aged peers.

In rare cases, the unique needs of an individual student may be best met in a regular classroom with students who are chronologically older or younger than the student is. Approval for this special placement will be considered only where this placement meets the unique and necessary academic, emotional, physical, social and/or spiritual needs of the students. Such placements, therefore, would necessitate the acceleration of the student to a higher grade or the retention of the student in a grade either for a second school year or for part thereof.

While acceleration is defined in various ways, any modification of a regular classroom program can be considered acceleration if it enables the student to progress more rapidly and to complete a program in less time or at an earlier age than is normally associated with her/his grade placement. Grade acceleration is only one of various options regarding enrichment opportunities. The weight of the evidence concerning acceleration suggests that:

- it is most appropriate for students identified as gifted;
- significant academic gains accrue to gifted students at all levels of schooling; and
- generally, no serious detrimental effects on emotional and social adjustment have been demonstrated with gifted students who have been accelerated.

A student may be considered for retention should the student not have reached a standard of achievement necessary for satisfactory progress in the next grade, Retention may also be considered for a child who is not sufficiently mature, either emotionally or socially to manage the expectations of the next grade. Regardless of the reason, retention shall be considered only after other options have been pursued and parents/guardians have been consulted. Whenever possible and advisable, the student shall be assigned to a different teacher for the second year in the grade. No more than two years in one grade will be permitted and a student shall be retained no more than once in elementary school.

Purpose

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board's policy on acceleration and retention is intended to be used as a foundation for making sound decisions regarding the educational placement of students. It in no way deprives any school of its individuality, but aims toward curriculum goals and providing each student with those skills necessary to perform in a satisfactory manner in the next grade level.

Responsibility: Superintendents of Education

Regulations:

- Education Act, R.S.O. 1990. Section 265 – Duties of Principal
- Ministry of Education. Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010.
- Ministry of Education. Learning for All. A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for all Students, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2013.

Related Board Committee: Committee of the Whole

Policy Review Date

BM Original Policy Approved 5 December 95

Revisions: 1 October 02, 5 June 07, 4 June 12, 19 June 18, 16 March 2021

To be reviewed every three years