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Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300

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**The Background:**

The promotion and retention policy provides local education agencies (LEAs) with guidelines for students in grades kindergarten through eight (K-8). The current policy does not address the need for students to progress toward and meet the expectations of the State Board of Education-approved Tennessee Academic Standards. This minor revision to the language of the policy is intended to draw attention to the need for LEAs to maintain high expectations for all students while providing those students considered for retention with high-quality, research-based intervention programs and services to meet grade-level expectations. Additionally, this item proposes a parent notification requirement if a student is not reading on grade level in grades kindergarten through three (K-3).

Since first reading the following changes have been made:

- Page 1: Clarified notification requirement for students who are not meeting grade-level standards in reading;
- Page 2: Added a date of February 1 by which students should be identified for potential retention;
- Page 2: Clarified factors used to identify students considered for retention;
- Page 2: Clarified development of the individualized promotion plan;
- Page 3: Clarified the options for students who do not demonstrate progress on their promotion plan;
- Page 4: Clarified notification for retention and development of the academic remediation plan;
- Page 4: Defined “highly effective.”

**Policy Justification:**

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed to be adopted as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule and/or concerns only the internal management of state government that does not affect private rights or privileges.

**The Fiscal Analysis Impact:**

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

