



Student Retention and Acceleration Policy

This policy was approved by the American Academy Board of Directors on February 9, 2021.

Purpose

This policy defines the procedures and rules for retaining students in their current grade and promoting students to a higher grade.

Grade Level Retention Definition

Retention is defined as not permitting a student to advance to the next grade level.

Identifying Grade Level Retention Candidates

The following policies are intended to assist the staff of American Academy and parents in identifying those children who are most likely to benefit from retention and those who are not:

- If the student is failing to make normal progress academically or otherwise, the student's parents must be notified by the end of the first trimester, so that the teachers and home may cooperate in helping him/her achieve greater success. This communication is not to discuss retention, but to work collaboratively with parents to help the student succeed.
- If the student fails to make appropriate progress by third trimester, the parents will be invited to attend a retention meeting with a school established retention team to discuss educational goals the student must achieve to avoid retention.
- At the end of the year, after all necessary data is received, and the student has been given every reasonable opportunity, the appropriate Principal will make the final decision regarding retention after considering recommendations from the retention team. The Principal will then notify the parents of the final decision.

Grade Level Retention

A student may be considered for retention if the student fails to meet grade level requirements.

Grade Requirements for Students

If a student has not demonstrated proficiency in two Core Subject areas, that student will not be promoted to the next grade level at the end of the school year. The Core Subjects, for the purposes grade level retention are:

- Grades K-2: Literacy, Science, Math, and History
- Grades 3-5: Literacy, Science/STEM, Math, and History
- Grades 6-8: English, Science/STEM, and History

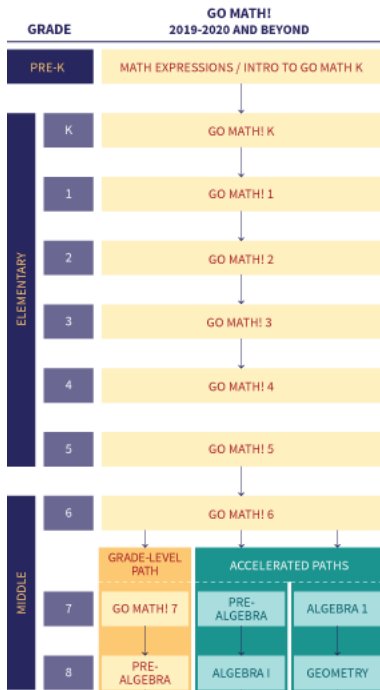
Accelerated math classes are considered separately as defined in the next section. Passing a course (including grade level math) is determined by two criteria, one of which must be met:

- The grade in the course for the last trimester must be at least 65%; or
- The grade average for all trimesters must be at least 65% for all subjects.

Math Retention and Acceleration

Accelerated Math Definition

Any student that is in a math class *higher* than the grade level they are in is considered “accelerated” (see graphic).



Requirements to Advance to the Next Math Level

- Students in grade-level math must meet the requirements specified in the Grade Level Retention section.
- Students in an accelerated math class (defined above) must maintain a B- (82%) or better course average for the year and a B- (82%) or better for the third trimester.

Requirements to Skip the Next Math Level

- Students in a grade level math class must maintain a solid A (96%) or better course average for the year and for the third trimester.
- Students must have verification of formal instruction in the skipped math level, such as a note from a tutor.
- Parents must notify the school prior to the start of the next school year in order for the students to test for acceleration.
- Students must demonstrate mastery of the level they are trying to skip.

Grade Acceleration in all Grades (K-8)

Grade Acceleration Definition

Grade Acceleration is defined as permitting a student to skip the next grade level.

Grade Acceleration Requirements

If a student has been referred for acceleration, the parents will be asked to give written consent for evaluation. The evaluation process will be initiated and completed by the appropriate Principal according to the acceleration procedures. Decisions to permit a student to skip the next grade level shall be made by the appropriate Principal, after completing the evaluation process. Parents will be notified of the decision by the Principal.

POLICY HISTORY

- Original:* approved by the BOD on July 14, 2008
- Revision 1:* approved by the BOD on February 18, 2010
- Revision 2:* approved by the BOD on July 15, 2010
- Revision 3:* approved by the BOD on April 14, 2012
- Revision 4:* approved by the BOD on April 1, 2016
- Revision 5:* approved by the BOD on October 25, 2016
- Revision 6:* approved by the BOD on October 16, 2018
- Revision 7:* approved by the BOD on December 8, 2020
- Revision 8:* approved by the BOD on February 9, 2021

