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**RETENTION AND ACCELERATION POLICY****Retention/Acceleration Team:**

LEAD: Intervention Coordinator: April Saade, asaade@excelacademy.education

Assistant Principal TK-8: Nick Romo, nromo@excelacademy.education

School Counselor 9-12: Melissa O'Dell, modell@excelacademy.education

\*If approved by the team, final approval goes to the Principal & Executive Director

**AB 104:** EACS is in full compliance with AB 104 enacted on July 1, 2021. In response to the impact the pandemic had on student success in the 20/21 school year, any 9th-12th grade student qualifies for a retention consultation if they earned a D and/or an F in at least half of their academic coursework during the 20/21 school year. For more information please reach out to April Saade at asaade@excelacademy.education.

**Retention**

Students at Excel Academy will be promoted to the next grade level each year. Our general philosophy is that because Excel offers personalized learning, retention is rarely necessary. For those rare exceptions, it must be agreed upon in writing, by both the parent and school administration, in order to repeat a grade. Retention will only be considered prior to the beginning of the school year. Decisions regarding retention will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Retention Team. Students may not be retained more than once. Students will only repeat a grade in the case that there is substantial evidence the student lacks academic and/or emotional maturity.

\*Requests for grade retention will not be considered prior to enrollment with Excel Academy Charter School in order to ensure sufficient time to observe the student in our academic setting.

**Retention Requests**

- a. Parents will send a letter to the Intervention Coordinator stating reasons why they are requesting grade retention.
- b. Parents will provide any additional relevant information (i.e. report cards, transcripts, or assessment results received outside of EACS)
- c. The Retention Team reviews information to determine if a retention meeting is warranted or if a decision can be made based on the letter.

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- i. If a meeting is warranted, the Intervention Coordinator will schedule a meeting with the Parent and Retention Team.
- d. A decision is made by the Retention Team and a decision letter is sent to the parent via email.

**Acceleration**

Students at Excel Academy will be promoted to the next grade level each year. Our general philosophy is that because Excel Academy offers personalized learning, acceleration is rarely necessary. For those rare exceptions, it must be agreed upon in writing, by both the parent and school administration, in order to skip a grade. Acceleration will only be considered prior to the beginning of the school year. Decisions regarding acceleration will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Acceleration Team. Typically, this is reserved for high school students who would like to graduate early. Students may graduate early, only if they have met all of the criteria for graduation, including credit requirements.

\*Requests for grade acceleration will not be considered prior to enrollment with Excel Academy Charter School in order to ensure sufficient time to observe the student in our academic setting.

**Acceleration Requests**

- a. Parents will send a letter to the Intervention Coordinator stating reasons why they are requesting acceleration.
- b. Parents will provide any additional relevant information (i.e. report cards, transcripts, or assessment results received outside of EACS)
- c. The Acceleration Team reviews information to determine if an acceleration meeting is warranted or if a decision can be made based on the letter.
  - i. If a meeting is warranted, the Intervention Coordinator will schedule a meeting with the Parent and Acceleration Team.
- d. A decision is made by the Acceleration Team and a decision letter is sent to the parent via email.