SCPC MEETING NOTES – PROMOTION RETENTION POLICY REVIEW (11/19/12)

Group 1

- How successful has the past P/R program been?
- Where are interventions on the new plan?
- O11 plan – teachers decide – New plan assessment only
- Standardization takes away from individual student's needs
- Middle new plan looks like it is easing standard so not as rigorous ☹
- What happened to attendance?
- Is the orange being added to old plan or does it stand alone?
- Consistency over the years and across district
- Will implementation start at K and work its way up?
- Need to keep attendance standard.
- What happens if the students pass only some required areas (subjects) & not others?
- What is considered core courses when schools call them other things? LA-SS = Humanities
- Parent request retention? Or Stop it? Accelerate?

Group 2

Present Policy

- IEP accommodations/accountability (ELD) – specify criteria for passing/retention too general – needs more specifics
- Needs clear statement of purpose
- Use online survey for feedback on policies

New Policy

- IEP accommodations/accountability (ELD) – specify criteria for passing/ret.
- Specifics better but how is "passing grade" determined
- Who grades & standards.
- Specify passing of core classes (4) in middle school. (8th grade example)
- Attendance should be required
- Intro with details as to purpose of policies and processes involving retention
- Communicate policy in various languages.
- Indicate actual assessments
- General readiness statement added to new policy
- Good thing: earlier intervention

Group 3

- What if a child "underperforms" on a given test?
- What kind(s) of interventions are there when a child comes to "tat" team already behind, but then won't be "re tat'd" for months; already behind
- For 3rd too much testing? (to get ready for "the big" test).
- Are there retention tests (similar to 3rd grade) for other grades up to 8th grade?
- Earlier intervention(s) leading up to 3rd grade (in previous months/grades).
- Tutoring (funding) – tax funds
- What response when parents decline intervention? (Teachers are not accountable) – make sure parents know.

Group 4

- Will there be sufficient resources in place if the number of interventions is a large number?
- What does intervention mean in the eyes of the district?
- Attendance is identified on the orange handout.
- What type of resources will the teachers receive to target children who need intervention so not to take away from other students?
- Concerns about English Language learners
- Add teachers to the committee, including ELD teachers
- Tools, programs, etc. district-wide rather than by school. Consistent district-wide intervention
- Policy section regarding Intervention (i.e.: what are they. System for identification
- Physical & Social characteristics as a factor for retention were removed. Will this no longer be used to evaluate?
- New plan does no specify retention length.
- Testing becoming too much of the criteria? Project based learners – options for them?