

MAPC Position Statement
April 23, 2010
Student Promotion Practices

MAPC recognizes that parents want their children to successfully reach the educational outcomes in any grade prior to being promoted to the next grade level. Parents must be involved in any decision that impacts promotion to the next grade level. Placing students in a grade that they may not be prepared for academically often demonstrates to students that specific standards are not always necessary to achieve a goal.

It is important that clear language practices be used to ensure all parties' understanding of student successes and challenges within a school environment. When schools use terminology such as *promoted* or *placed* to differentiate whether the students have achieved the outcomes for a grade, the interpretation of these terms must be very clear and consistent for everyone. Promotion to the next grade level must indicate achievement and should not be given to all students unless successfully earned.

MAPC also recognizes that parents must be involved in any changes made to the subject area studied by their children to ensure that clear communication practices are being followed and understood by all. MAPC understands that such changes are sometimes necessary to ensure student success and achievement.

MAPC is identifying the following concerns about students being promoted or placed in the next grade level when all of the expected outcomes have not been achieved:

The student's ability to grasp the delivered content will be compromised and the learning gap will increase as they age.

The student's self esteem may be negatively impacted when they are unable to perform at the same level as their peers.

The student may display negative behavior patterns in the classroom in response to frustration which could impact all students' learning.

Some students may learn that it is not necessary to work hard to achieve a goal and that rewards are given despite the lack of effort. This does not prepare them for real life situations outside of school or in the workplace where serious consequences exist.

Students who demonstrate consistent effort, understanding, and work ethic may perceive the unfairness when students are promoted without demonstrating the same success.

MAPC believes that parental involvement is crucial when considering student promotion.

Rationale:

MAPC would like to be able to share this position, as representative of its members, with our education partners (including the Minister of Education), and the media.