

## **Eighth Grade Retention Options**

Purpose: to provide target interventions for every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student with 2 or more F's in core subject areas and who are scoring below basic and far below basic in the content standards tests (CSTs)

District Policy: Grade 8 – Any student with 2 or more Fs in core subjects will be required to attend summer school for targeted intervention. Students who do not attend summer school will be retained unless exempted by CST scores of Basic or above. At the conclusion of summer school, students who have passed English/Language Arts (ELA) or Mathematics or who score Basic or above on the CST in ELA and Mathematics are promoted and recommended for 9<sup>th</sup> grade intervention. Students who do not pass ELA and Mathematics and who score Below Basic or Far Below Basic on the CST will be retained and placed in an accelerated program for grade retained students.

### Options

- I. Cluster Students in Schools with higher numbers of retained students
  - Personnel: 1-2 teachers will provide intense instruction in English language arts and math. Also provide one counselor to work with students, teachers, and parents to ensure attendance, create school and community resources, and improve connection to school. Ongoing professional development will address working with at-risk students and mastery learning of standards. Also, an administrator will oversee all sites with retained students and guide counselors in developing and implementing strategies. The administrator will be in charge of monitoring the progress of all retained students, evaluating the interventions, and working with the community to develop resources and vocational/career opportunities for students. Additionally, the administrator will work with site principals to facilitate the inclusion of the at-risk interventions and the future transition of students to high school.
  - Curriculum and Assessment: Students will take the Gates-McGanite and the Math Diagnostic Placement (MDPT) to guide the instruction for English and Math, respectively. Teachers will use a mastery learning approach to re-teach standards which students have not learned. Online courses will be explored using the Apex Learning Program already adopted by the district. Alternative assessments will be explored to ensure are engage in their learning processes and improve student engagement/motivation.
  - Transportation will be provided for students to attend an eighth grade learning cluster that is outside of their resident area.
  
- II. Students Remain Retained at their Resident School
  - Sites will receive funds from existent Teen-09 monies to create tutorials and interventions assisting retained students.
  - The administrator will work with site administrators, counselors, and teachers to ensure implementation of the interventions.