



ISD 318 Retention Procedures

Retention is considered a Tier III instructional practice. ***At ISD 318, retention is discouraged and only to be used in rare circumstances.*** "The majority of studies from the past five decades indicate that the practice of retention as a remedial intervention has resulted in limited to no evidence of improving academic outcomes and life outcomes for students (Hattie, 2009; Jimerson, 2001). In fact, recent research indicates that retention has a negative effect size averaging -0.16 across 207 studies (Hattie, 2009)" (Gibbons, K., Pekel, K., Potter, L., & Xiong, E. (2021, July). To Retain or Not Retain? That Actually Is Not the Question. *Minnesota School Boards Association Journal* ."

In the rare case that an ISD #318 student is considered for retention, the following steps must be closely followed in accordance with the [Individuals with Disabilities Act Child Find \(Section 300.111\)](#)

- All students considered for retention have been universally screened.
- All students considered for retention have been discussed at building level Data Action Response and Review Team (DARRT) meetings and the ISD 318 MTSS flowchart has been closely adhered to in providing the student research-based interventions with fidelity.
 - The Light's Retention Scale may be used as a data resource within the DARRT discussions
- Once the student has been brought to DARRT, the team (teacher, principal, interventionist, counselor) will use the data to discuss with families the potential need for retention and a possible SpEd referral.
 - Conversations with families regarding retention should occur as a team meeting, not an individual classroom teacher discussion and only if the above DARRT process has been followed.
- **A special education evaluation (as data supports) must always be conducted prior to a retention.**
- If a student in special education is being considered for retention, the special services director will be consulted as part of the retention decision.
- The decision to retain will be made by the building level DARRT team.