

REPEATING A YEAR LEVEL INFORMATION SHEET FOR PRINCIPALS

This fact sheet has been developed to assist schools in conversation with families who are considering requesting their child repeat a year level. This guidance supplements the Repeating a Year Level Policy, <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/policy>

REPEATING A YEAR LEVEL POLICY SUMMARY

- Schools should regularly promote students to the next year level with their peer group.
- Repeating a year level can only occur in exceptional circumstances.
- Evidence indicates repeating a year level is not an effective intervention for a student to catch up in their education.

KEY MESSAGES FOR FAMILIES

- Research indicates that, in most cases, repeating a year level is usually not beneficial for students and can lead to poor outcomes for students' academic achievement, wellbeing, school engagement and completion.
- Instead, schools should use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to meet each student's learning needs.
- Every student, in every year, will be supported to close any learning gaps.

REASSURE YOUR FAMILIES

You can discuss with families how your school will support students, including through the use of more effective, evidence-based [High Impact Teaching Strategies](#), such as differentiated teaching and collaborative learning.

Depending on the individual needs of the student, you may recommend the development of an [Individual Education Plan](#). To assist in your discussions with families, it may help to share the research that shows there is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year.

Some example text that could be included in your school website or newsletter, tailored for your local context, is available [here](#).

An [information sheet](#) is available for you to share with families. It includes evidence associated with repeating a year level and is available in 35 different languages.

More detail on the research can be found in the resources tab of the [Repeating a Year Level](#)

DECISION MAKING FOR REPEATING A YEAR LEVEL

The final decision about progression or repeating a year level rests with the principal. Schools do not need parent/carer consent for a student to progress to the next year level. However, listening to the concerns of parents/carers and consulting with them are essential in a positive and trusting parent-school partnership.

Where the principal determines that repeating a year level is required for the long-term benefit of the student, the principal must obtain parent/carer consent for the student to repeat the year level.

PARENT/CARER COMPLAINTS

If parents/carers have requested that their child repeat a year level and are not satisfied with the principal's reasoning, the evidence they have provided and their decision, they can lodge a complaint following your school's complaints policy.