

Social Promotion

Name

Institution

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A student needs a certain level of knowledge and skills to be promoted to the next grade. However, not all children possess the skills and knowledge to get promoted to the next class. Despite their lack of skills and ability to reach the required grades, they are promoted to the next class, so they feel included and do not demean themselves. This type of promotion is known as social promotion. People argue that social promotion instills self-esteem in children but it will not result in future success, which will then affect students

Social promotion in one grade will promote the student to the next level but the lack of skills and knowledge will result in their failure in the future. Students should not be promoted if they achieve inadequate grades because the promotion will make it even more difficult for them to understand the advanced course and might result in their failure. Socially promoted students are more likely to drop out of high school. A research study that analyzed two groups, one was socially promoted students and the other was of students who got promoted on the basis of their own capabilities. The results showcased that students who were socially promoted in one or more than one grade were more likely to drop out of high school (McMahon, 2018). This demonstrates that social promotion does not enhance the skills and capability of a student to pass in the next grade and graduate high school. In fact, it can result in dropping out of school because the student is unable to continue on their own. Hence, social promotion does not guarantee future success, which makes it seem less acceptable and useful for the students. Instead, the child should not be promoted, so they work hard and get promoted on the behalf of their capabilities.

Opponents of social promotion argue that social promotion is beneficial for the mental health and self-esteem of students because grade retention has adverse effects on them; however, contemporary studies have proven them wrong. The studies which focused on the cons of grade

retention and favored social promotion were outdated. A study stated that these various pieces of research lacked empirical sources(Hernandez-Tutop, 2012). Therefore, those studies are not reliable and also not relatable to the current education system which has undergone a change. The aforesaid study also proved that retention can have positive effects as it leads students to ameliorate their grades and perform better.(Hernandez-Tutop, 2012) This clearly showcases that better grades will generate positive feelings and boost their confidence to work better in upcoming grade levels. Moreover, it will reaffirm their faith in themselves that they do have the potential to get promoted on their own and earn better grades.

In conclusion, social promotion, the act of promoting a student despite their inadequacy to reach the desired grades can be detrimental in the long run as it does not guarantee future academic improvement. Social promotion in one or more than one grade will not enhance the student's knowledge and skills and as a result, they will drop out in high school when they will not be able to progress on their own. Additionally, social promotion was proven beneficial in old and outdated studies, which are now proven to be false. Instead, new studies that were carried out considering the recent changes in education system and standardized testing have proven that grade retention is far more better than social promotion. Grade retention gives student more time to enhance their knowledge and skills and they can improve on them. Studies show that grade retention resulted in better grades and boost in students' confidence. Hence, students should not be socially promoted if they fail to achieve adequate grades.

References

Hernandez-Tutop, J. (2012). Social Promotion or Grade Repetition: What's Best for the 21st Century Student?. *Online Submission*.

McMahon, T. (2018). Despite our best intention: Students relate how social promotion hurt them and what changes they believe will help them. *Interchange*, 49(4), 499–519.