# 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 routinely 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, and risks being harmful for a student’s learning and development.

## 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 make good progress and 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](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/practice/improve/Pages/hits.aspx), 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](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/individual-education-plans-ieps/policy) 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.

The [Tutor Learning Initiative](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/tutor-learning-initiative/policy) provides additional support to students whose learning has been affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some [example text](https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edrms/website/PAL/repeating-year-level-sample-text.docx) that can be included in your school website or newsletter, tailored for your local context, is available.

An [information sheet](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/PAL/repeating-year-level-information-for-families.docx) is also 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](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/repeating-year-level/policy).

## 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.