

THE K-6 GRADE CONFIGURATION

Redford Union Schools

Redford Union Schools (RU) is reconfiguring elementary schools to a K-6 model. RU partnered with Hanover Research (Hanover) to review relevant research on K-6 and K-8 grade configurations. This infographic provides RU parents and community members with a summary of the key findings from the research about the benefits of attending Grade 6 in K-6 or K-8 school.

THE BENEFITS OF A K-6 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Research finds that attending Grade 6 in elementary, rather than middle school, can lead to:

- ✓ **Reduced achievement loss** during the middle school transition.
- ✓ Higher **academic achievement** in Math and Reading.
- ✓ Reduced **achievement gaps**.

In one study students who attend Grade 6 in elementary, compared to middle school, had pass rates on standardized tests that were on average...*



6.9%

Higher in **READING**



6.2%

Higher in **MATH**

BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE



Research finds that attending Grade 6 in elementary, rather than middle school, can lead to:

- ✓ **Fewer disciplinary infractions**, even after Grade 6, including **fewer suspensions and expulsions**.
- ✓ Higher **attendance rates**.
- ✓ Grade 6 students experiencing **less bullying and fights** and **feeling safer** at school.



Because sixth graders are at a very impressionable age, delaying the middle school transition until students are more developmentally mature can reduce disciplinary problems in Grade 6 and even in the long-term.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL OUTCOMES & SUPPORT



Research finds that K-6 and K-8 schools promote social structures with **more positive social-emotional outcomes** than traditional middle or junior high schools.

Attending Grade 6 in a K-6 or K-8 school can improve:



SELF-ESTEEM

Raised self-esteem and decreased feelings of self-consciousness, particularly in girls.



POSITIVE SOCIAL CONTEXT

Stronger school attachment, peer support, and peer academic values.



SELF-CONCEPT

Higher self-perception of academic skills in reading.



SOCIAL SUPPORT

A supportive environment fosters:

- ✓ **Strong Relationships** among peers and teachers.
- ✓ **High Engagement** from parents and students.
- ✓ **Sense of Belonging**: feeling more welcome, known, and seen.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Students who are seen as leaders are more likely to behave like leaders.

*Malone et al, 2020 (See page 2 for a complete list of sources referenced during the completion of this infographic)

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