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## On the Success of Failure: A Reassessment of the Effects of Retention in the Primary School Grades (Second Edition)

By Karl L. Alexander, Doris R. Entwisle & Susan L. Dauber

Cambridge University Press, 2002. Softcover. Book Condition: New. 2nd edition. On the Success of Failure is about the practice of grade retention in elementary schools, a particularly vexing problem in urban school systems. The book describes the school context of retention and evaluates its consequences by tracking the experiences of a large, representative sample of Baltimore school children from first grade through high school. It addresses the complex question of whether or not repeating a grade is helpful or harmful when children are not keeping up. Contents Preface to the second edition 1. Grade retention: lingering questions 2. Research on grade repetition: strong opinions, weak evidence 3. Retainees in the 'beginning school study' 4. Children's pathways through the elementary and middle school years: retention+ 5. Characteristics and competencies of repeaters: who is held back? 6. Achievement scores before and after retention 7. Adjusted achievement comparisons: the need for controlled comparisons and the multiple-regression approach 8. Academic performance as judged by teachers: report card marks before and after retention 9. The stigma of retention 10. Retention in the broader context of elementary and middle school tracking 11. Dropout in relation to grade retention 12. The retention puzzle: problem, solution, or signal?...



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