Hello,

Approximately fifteen years ago I attended a School Board Conference and a gentleman presented a statistic about student retention and student drop out. He explained that approximately 90% of students that are held back a grade will ultimately drop out of school. He went on to state it did not matter what grade the student was held back, the student still has approximately 90% chance of dropping out. Not all drop outs were because they were held back at an earlier grade level, but 9 out of 10 kids that repeat a grade will ultimately drop out. Before that meeting I thought if a child was struggling it may benefit a child to repeat the grade. With that statistic, I began thinking summer school and tutoring would be a much better option than retention. Retention would be done only as a last resort. I do not recall where the statistics came from. Does the ISBE track information about students that drop out, were they retained at any previous grade level?

If so may I have a recent copy of the report?

Thank you,

Randy Giddens