Light’s Retention Scale

Revised Edition

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: *yr.*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *mo.* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: Teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTIONS: This scale is to be used as an aid in deciding whether or not a student should be retained. Read each item and circle the number following the most accurate statement.

1. **Sex of student**

Student is a boy in kindergarten through third grade 0

Student is a girl in kindergarten through third grade 2

Student is a boy in fourth through twelfth grade 3

Student is a girl in fourth through twelfth grade 4

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Student’s Age**

Student’s birthday falls in the last ½ of the calendar year and is in the younger ½ of

his or her present class 0

Student’s birthday falls in the first ½ of the calendar year and is in the older ½ of his

or her present class 2

Student is one year older than the students in his or her present class 4

Student is more than one year older than the students in his/her present class 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Knowledge of English language**

Student has good communication skills using the English language 0

Student has limited use of the English language but is acquiring new skills quickly 2

Student has little/no knowledge of the English language; is not acquiring new skills 5

COMMENTS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Physical Size**

Student is significantly smaller than others the same age 0

Student is slightly smaller than most others the same age 2

Student is the same physical size as most others the same age 4

Student is significantly larger than others the same age 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Score, Page 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. **Present Grade Placement**

Student is in kindergarten 0

Student is in first grade 1

Student is in second or third grade 2

Student is in fourth to sixth grade 3

Student is in seventh to twelfth grade 4

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Previous Grade Retentions**

Student has never been retained and started kindergarten by age 5 0

Student has been held out of kindergarten and started school one year later than other

children his or her age 3

Student has had one or more grade retentions 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Siblings *(Circle only the highest number that applies)***

Student has no brothers or sisters 0

Student has a brother or sister more than 3 grade levels above or below the student’s

present grade level 2

Student has a brother or sister 2 grade levels above or below present grade level 3

Student has a brother or sister 1 grade level above or below present grade level 4

Student has a brother or sister at the same grade level or one grade level below student’s

present grade level 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Parents’ School Participation**

Parents attend school conferences and are actively involved in school activities 0

Parents attend teacher conferences but rarely are involved in other school activities 2

Parents attend very few teacher conferences 3

Parents never attend teacher conferences 4

Parents never attend teacher conferences and are not supportive of the school staff 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Experiential Background**

Student comes from a background that offers almost no opportunity for social or cultural

stimulation 0

Student has minimal experience with the community and has few previous experiences in

non-school activities 3

Student has had many enrichment experiences (i.e. summer camp, foreign travel, church

groups, scouts, etc.) 4

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Score, Page 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. **Transience**

Student has attended one school since beginning kindergarten 0

Student has attended two or three schools since beginning kindergarten 3

Student has attended four to six schools since beginning kindergarten 4

Student has attended seven or more schools in the past three years 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **School Attendance**

Student misses more than 25 days of school in nine months 0

Student misses 11-24 days of school in nine months 2

Student misses 3-10 days of school in nine months 3

Student misses fewer than 3 days of school in nine months 4

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Estimate of Intelligence**

Student’s intelligence is within the average range (16th-84th percentile) 0

Student’s intelligence is below average (5th-15th percentile) 4

Student’s intelligence is above average (85th-95th percentile) 4

Student’s intelligence is significantly below average (below the 5th percentile) 5

Student’s intelligence is significantly above average (above the 95th percentile) 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **History of Learning Disabilities**

Student has been evaluated by an educational psychologist and no learning disabilities

have been found 0

The teacher sees no evidence of a learning disability 2

The teacher believes the child has a learning disability 4

Student has been evaluated by an educational psychologist and found to have a learning

Disability 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Present Level of Academic Achievement**

Student is one year below grade level in all academic areas 0

Student is more than one year below grade level in all academic areas 3

Student is at grade expectancy in one subject area and one year below grade level in all

other areas 3

Student is at or above grade expectancy in both reading and spelling 4

Student is at or above grade expectancy in all academic areas 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Score, Page 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

1. **Student’s Attitude About Possible Retention**

Student requests retention to “learn what was missed” 0

Student seems disinterested in whether he/she is retained or not 3

Student requests retention but insists that he/she get the same teacher next year 3

Student agrees to retention only after parent persuasion 3

Student does not want retention but agrees that he/she is behind in school work 4

After appropriate counseling by the teacher or parent, the child remains upset if the subject

of retention is approached 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Motivation to Complete School Tasks**

Student spends at least 80 percent of class time working on school assignments, even

though some may be too difficult 0

Student works on those tasks that he/she is interested in 1

Student is disinterested in school but will work if encouraged 3

Student is disinterested in school and need one-on-one encouragement to complete

assignments 4

Student will avoid school related tasks (within child’s academic achievement level) even

when offered individual help 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Immature Behavior**

Student associates with children 2 or more years younger than his/her actual age 0

Student associated with children 1 year younger than his/her actual age 3

Student associates with children his/her age 3

Student associates with children older than his/her actual age 4

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Emotional Problems**

Student does not exhibit behavior sometimes seen in emotionally disturbed children (i.e. is

not distractible, depressed, overactive, nervous, cries often, etc.) 0

Student exhibits behavior sometimes seen in emotionally disturbed children 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **History of Delinquency**

Student has no history of antisocial behavior 0

Student occasionally has difficulty following school rules 1

Student often has problems on the playground and in the classroom 3

Student has a history of discipline problems in the classroom, playground, and community,

but has not had contact with law enforcement 4

Student has a history of discipline problems in the classroom, playground, and community,

and has had contact with law enforcement 5

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Score, Page 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ***TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***