

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

BP 5123
Students

***Note: Education Code 48070 and 48070.5 mandate that the Governing Board adopt a policy, at a public meeting, regarding the promotion and retention of students, including, but not limited to, promotion and retention at specified grade levels and with specified provisions. ***

The Governing Board expects students to progress through each grade level within one school year. Toward this end, instruction shall be designed to accommodate the variety of ways that students learn and provide strategies for addressing academic deficiencies as needed.

Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards of expected student achievement.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(cf. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

When high academic achievement is evident, the teacher may recommend a student for acceleration to a higher grade level. The student's maturity level shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

***Note: Education Code 48070.5 mandates that the Board's policy provide for the identification of students who should be retained and who are at risk of being retained at the end of grades 2, 3, 4, the intermediate grades (usually grade 6), and the middle school grades (usually grade 8). Items #1-5 below should be revised to reflect the grade levels offered by the district. If the Board chooses to expand these requirements to cover other grade levels, the following list should be revised accordingly. ***

***Note: Education Code 48070.5 further mandates that the Board's policy provide for students to be identified as early in the school year, and as early in their school careers, as practicable. ***

Teachers shall identify students who should be retained or who are at risk of being retained at their current grade level as early as possible in the school year and as early in their school careers as practicable. Such students shall be identified at the following grade levels: (Education Code 48070.5)

1. Between grades 2 and 3
2. Between grades 3 and 4
3. Between grades 4 and 5

***Note: If all the schools in the district are configured in the same manner, the district may specify the actual grade levels in items #4 and 5 below (e.g., between grades 6 and 7, between grades 8 and 9). ***

4. Between the end of the intermediate grades and the beginning of the middle school grades
5. Between the end of the middle school grades and the beginning of the high school grades

***Note: Education Code 48070.5 mandates that the district's policy establish the basis for identifying students who should be retained and who are at risk of being retained. If a student performs below the minimum standard based on indicators established by the district, the student shall be retained, unless the teacher determines that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies; see the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48070.5, the district may use either of the following: (1) the student's grades and other indicators of academic achievement designated by the district (Option 1 below) or (2) the results of state assessments administered pursuant to Education Code 60640-60649 and minimum levels of proficiency recommended by the State Board of Education (SBE) (Option 2 below). With regards to special education students, the determination as to the appropriate standards for promotion or retention should be made as part of the IEP process; see BP/AR 6159 - Individualized Education Program. ***

***Note: Education Code 48070.5 provides that, when a district chooses to identify students on the basis of grades pursuant to Option 1, the Board shall also designate other indicators of academic achievement that will be used. These other indicators of achievement (e.g., state or district assessments, portfolios, attendance) should be specified in the blanks provided below. ***

OPTION 1: Students shall be identified for retention on the basis of failure to meet minimum levels of proficiency, as indicated by grades and the following additional indicators of academic achievement:

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 60640-60649, as amended by AB 484 (Ch. 489, Statutes of 2013), beginning in the 2013-14 school year, the state assessment system will transition from the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program to the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress; see BP/AR 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests. Thus, districts selecting Option 2 below should determine the availability and appropriateness of state assessments for the purpose of identifying students who should be retained and who are at risk of

being retained. ***

***Note: The California Department of Education's FAQs Pupil Promotion and Retention states that STAR results may not be the exclusive criterion for promotion or retention since the test has not been certified for that purpose; thus, other indicators must also be used. These other indicators of achievement (e.g., grades, district assessments, portfolios, attendance) should be specified in the blanks provided below. ***

OPTION 2: Students shall be identified for retention on the basis of failure to meet minimum levels of proficiency, as indicated by the results of state assessments administered pursuant to Education Code 60640-60649 and the following additional indicators of academic achievement:

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

Note: The remainder of this policy is for use by all districts.

Students between grades 2 and 3 and grades 3 and 4 shall be identified primarily on the basis of their level of proficiency in reading. Proficiency in reading, English language arts, and mathematics shall be the basis for identifying students between grades 4 and 5, between intermediate and middle school grades, and between middle school grades and high school grades. (Education Code 48070.5)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

***Note: Education Code 48070.5 mandates that the district's policy specify the teacher(s) responsible for the promotion/retention decision in cases where the student does not have a single regular classroom teacher. The following paragraph should be revised to indicate the specific teacher(s) who will be responsible (e.g., teachers responsible for core subjects). ***

If a student does not have a single regular classroom teacher, the Superintendent or designee shall specify the teacher(s) responsible for the decision to promote or retain the student. (Education Code 48070.5)

***Note: Education Code 48070.5 mandates that the district's policy include a process by which the teacher's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed; see the accompanying administrative regulation. ***

The teacher's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed in accordance with AR 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention.

***Note: Education Code 37252.2 requires districts to provide supplemental instruction to students in grades 2-9 who have been retained or recommended for retention. Education Code 37252.8 authorizes, but does not require, districts to provide supplemental instruction to students

in grades 2-6 who have been identified as at risk for retention. Pursuant to Education Code 48070.5, the Board must adopt policy indicating the manner in which instruction for these purposes will be provided. See BP 6179-Supplemental Instruction for language fulfilling this mandate. ***

When a student in grades 2-9 is retained or recommended for retention, the Superintendent or designee shall offer an appropriate program of remedial instruction to assist the student in meeting grade-level expectations. The district also may offer supplemental instruction to a student in grades 2-6 who is identified as being at risk for retention. (Education Code 37252.2, 37252.8, 48070.5)

When a student is recommended for retention or is identified as being at risk for retention, the Superintendent or designee shall offer an appropriate program of remedial instruction to assist the student in meeting grade-level expectations. (Education Code 48070.5)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)
(cf. 6177 - Summer Learning Programs)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37252-37254.1 Supplemental instruction
41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant
46300 Method of computing average daily attendance
48010 Admittance to first grade
48011 Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten
48070-48070.5 Promotion and retention
56345 Elements of individualized education plan
60640-60649 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
60850-60859 Exit examination
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
200-202 Admission and exclusion of students

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

FAQs Promotion, Retention, and Grading (students with disabilities)

FAQs Pupil Promotion and Retention

Kindergarten Continuance Form

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

(7/05 12/13) 12/15