

NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

Series 5000: Students

BP 5123

PROMOTION/ ACCELERATION/RETENTION

The Governing Board expects students to progress through each grade within one school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the varying interests and growth patterns of individual students and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed.

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

Promotion/Acceleration

Kindergarten to Grade 1

A student who has been lawfully admitted to a public school kindergarten or private school kindergarten in California and who is judged by the administration of the school district, in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education, to be ready for first-grade work may be admitted to the first grade at the discretion of the school administration of the district and with the consent of the student's parent or guardian if the student is at least five years of age. (Education Code 48011)

Grade 1 through Grade 8

When high achievement is evident in first grade and higher, the teacher may recommend to the school administrator a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student. The school administrator and student's teacher shall discuss the recommendation with the student's parents/guardians before any final determination promotion. (Education Code 48070.5)

Retention

Kindergarten

A student who has been admitted to kindergarten maintained by a private or a public school in California or any other state, and who has completed one school year therein, shall be admitted to the first grade of an elementary school unless the parent or guardian of the child and the school district agree that the child may continue in kindergarten for not more than one additional school year.(Education Code 48011)

Whenever a student continues in kindergarten for an additional year, the Superintendent or designee shall secure an agreement, signed by the parent/guardian, stating that the student shall continue in kindergarten for not more than one additional school year.
(Education Code 46300)

Grade 1 through Grade 8

Proficiency in reading shall be the primary basis for identifying students who should be retained or are at risk of being retained in the following grades:

- between grades 1 and 2
- between grades 2 and 3
- between grades 3 and 4

Proficiency in reading, English language arts, and mathematics shall be the basis for identifying a students who should be retained or are at risk of being retained in the following grades:

- between grades 4 and 5
- between grades 5 and 6
- between grades 6 and 7
- between grades 7 and 8
- between grades 8 and 9

(Education Code 48070.5[a] [c] [j])

Students shall be identified for grade level retention using multiple assessment measures, including the student's academic grades and other indicators of academic achievement designated by the district in its administrative rules and regulations. (Education Code 48070.5[b])

If these assessment measures identify that a student is performing below the minimum standard for promotion, the student shall be retained in his or her current grade level unless the student's regular classroom teacher determines in writing that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies. This written determination shall specify the reasons that retention is not appropriate for the student and shall include recommendations for interventions other than retention that, in the judgment of the teacher, are necessary to assist the student to attain acceptable levels of academic achievement. (Education Code 48070.5[d])

If the teacher's recommendation to promote is contingent on the student's participation in summer learning activities, the student's academic performance shall be reassessed at the end of the summer period by teacher, and the decision to retain or promote the student shall be reevaluated at that time. The teacher's reevaluation shall be provided to and discussed with the student's parents/guardians and the principal before any final determination of retention or promotion. (Education Code 48070.5[d])

If the 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[d])

When a student is identified as being at risk of retention, the teacher shall so notify the student's parents/guardians as early in the school year, and as early in their school careers, as practicable. Parents/guardians shall have an opportunity to consult with the teacher(s) responsible for the notification. (Education Code 48070.5[e][g])

The Superintendent or designee shall indicate the manner in which opportunities for remedial instruction will be provided to students who are recommended for retention or who are identified as being at risk for retention. (Education Code 48070.5[h])

Appeal Process

The teacher's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed by parents/guardians consistent with administration regulation and law. The burden shall be on the appealing party to show why the teacher's decision should be overruled.
(Education Code 48070.5[f])

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48011 Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten
48070-48070.5 Promotion and retention
48431.6 Required systematic review of students and grading
56345 Elements of individualized education plan
60641-60648 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program
60648 Minimum performance levels

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

200-202 Admission and exclusion of students

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES

0900.90 Changes in Law Concerning Eligibility for Admission to Kindergarten 90-10

CDE PUBLICATIONS

Performance Level Tables for the California Standards Tests and the California Alternative Performance Assessment

Parental Agreement Form: Agreement for Pupil to Continue in Kindergarten

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OPINION

Promotion and Retention #21610

WEB SITES

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

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

Nicasio School Board

Approved

Revised 1st Reading

Revised 2nd Reading

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