

**PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION**

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.

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
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

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: rubric scores, standardized testing, and proficiency level on grade level content standards.

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

**PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION** (continued)

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)*

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)

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

When any 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 Superintendent or designee also may offer supplemental instruction to a student in grades 2-9 who is identified as being at risk for retention. (Education Code 37252.2, 37252.8, 48070.5)

*(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)*

*(cf. 6177 - Summer Learning Programs)*

*(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

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*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

37252-37254.1 *Supplemental instruction*

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>

Policy  
adopted: February 23, 1999  
revised: January 23, 2006  
revised: May 31, 2014  
revised: June 21, 2016

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California

**PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION**

**Acceleration from Kindergarten to First Grade**

Any student who meets the age eligibility requirement and has completed one year of kindergarten shall be admitted to first grade unless the parent/guardian and the Superintendent or designee agree that the student shall continue in kindergarten. (Education Code 48010, 48011)

*(cf. 5111 - Admission)*

A student who does not meet the age eligibility requirement may be admitted to first grade at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee and with the consent of the parent/guardian upon determination that the student is ready for first-grade work, subject to the following minimum criteria: (Education Code 48011; 5 CCR 200)

1. The student is at least six years of age.
2. The student has attended a public school kindergarten for a long enough time to enable school personnel to evaluate his/her ability.
3. The student is in the upper five percent of his/her age group in terms of general mental ability.
4. The physical development and social maturity of the student are consistent with his/her advanced mental ability.
5. The parent/guardian of the student has filed a written statement with the district approving the placement in first grade.

**Continuation in Kindergarten**

Whenever the Superintendent or designee and the parents/guardians agree that a student shall continue 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, 48011)

The Superintendent or designee shall not approve a student's continuation in kindergarten until the student has been enrolled in kindergarten for close to one school year.

**Retention at Other Grade Levels**

If a student is identified as performing below the minimum standard for promotion to the next grade level based on the indicators specified in Board policy, the student shall be retained in his/her current grade level unless the student's regular classroom teacher determines, in writing,

**PROMOTION/ACCELERATION/RETENTION** (continued)

that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies. This 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 opinion of the teacher, are necessary to assist the student in attaining acceptable levels of academic achievement. (Education Code 48070.5)

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*  
*(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)*  
*(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)*

If the teacher's recommendation to promote is contingent on the student's participation in a summer school or interim session remediation program, the student's academic performance shall be reassessed at the end of the remediation program, and the decision to retain or promote the student shall be reevaluated at that time. The teacher's evaluation 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)

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

When a student is identified as being at risk of retention, the Superintendent or designee shall so notify the student's parent/guardian as early in the school year as practicable. The student's parent/guardian shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the teacher(s) responsible for the decision to promote or retain the student. (Education Code 48070.5)

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

The Superintendent or designee shall also provide a copy of the district's promotion/retention policy and administrative regulation to those parents/guardians who have been notified that their child is at risk of retention.

**PROMOTION**

To be promoted, students must reach a proficient level (2.3) in all core subjects (English, mathematics, science, and social science)

**OR**

Meet the following grade level criteria:

**Grade 7:** Score at the proficient level on both the English/Language Arts and mathematics criterion reference tests (state assessment)

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**Grade 8:** Score at the proficient level on both the English/Language Arts and mathematics criterion reference tests (state assessment)

**OR**

Attend the assigned targeted interventions during the appropriate grading sessions as per the Visalia Unified School District Intervention Worksheet found at each middle school so as to meet the proficient level (2.3) in all core subjects

**PROMOTION CEREMONY**

To participate in the promotion ceremony, students must:

1. Reach a proficient level (2.3) in the spring semester of all subjects (English, mathematics, science, social science, physical education, and electives.)
2. Maintain a daily attendance rate of 94% throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

The site principal may decide to allow a student who does not meet these requirements to participate, given special circumstances.

**CONDITIONAL PROMOTION**

English Learners who do not meet the proficient level (2.3) may be conditionally promoted if they are making progress towards proficiency.

Students with current Individualized Education Plans (IEP'S) may be conditionally promoted if they meet the terms and conditions of their respective plans.

**RETENTION**

Retention – When a student has not demonstrated grade-level proficiency in the core content areas, the principal shall determine whether the student will be retained. This decision will be made in consultation with the teacher(s), parents, and other staff, if appropriate. Parents will be notified as soon as retention is being considered and no later than the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> grading period of the school year. The final decision on retention will be made following the completion of an extended year program and no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of that year.

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**Appeal Process**

Whenever a student's parent/guardian appeals the teacher's decision to promote or retain a student, the burden shall be on the parent/guardian to show why the teacher's decision should be overruled. (Education Code 48070.5)

To appeal a teacher's decision, the parent/guardian shall submit a written request to the Superintendent or designee specifying the reasons that the teacher's decision should be overruled. The appeal must be initiated within 10 school days of the determination of retention or promotion.

The teacher shall be provided an opportunity to state orally and/or in writing the criteria on which his/her decision was based.

Within 30 days of receiving the request, the Superintendent or designee shall determine whether or not to overrule the teacher's decision. Prior to making this determination, the Superintendent or designee may meet with the parent/guardian and the teacher. If the Superintendent or designee determines that the parent/guardian has overwhelmingly proven that the teacher's decision should be overruled, he/she shall overrule the teacher's decision.

The Superintendent or designee's determination may be appealed by submitting a written appeal to the Governing Board within 15 school days. Within 30 days of receipt of a written appeal, the Board shall meet in closed session to decide the appeal. The Board's decision may be made on the basis of documentation prepared as part of the appeal process or, at the discretion of the Board, the Board may also meet with the parent/guardian, the teacher, and the Superintendent or designee to decide the appeal. The decision of the Board shall be final.

*(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)*

*(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)*

If the final decision is unfavorable to the parent/guardian, he/she shall have the right to submit a written statement of objections which shall become part of the student's record.

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SCHOOL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Kindergarten Continuance Form**

**Parental Agreement For Pupil to Continue in Kindergarten**

Reflects amendments to Education Code sections 46300 and 48011, effective January 1, 1992

Name of Pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindergarten Attendance Anniversary Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Official Approving for District: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information for parent or guardian**

California law provides that after a child has been lawfully admitted to a kindergarten and has attended for a year, the child shall be promoted to the first grade unless the school district and the child's parents/guardians agree to having the child continue to attend kindergarten for not longer than one additional year. This rule applies whether a child begins kindergarten at the beginning of a school year or at the some later date, so that a child who begins kindergarten in January, for example, shall be promoted the following January unless there is a formal agreement to have him or her continue. Because kindergarten-age children often do not develop at steady or predictable rates, the California Department of Education recommends that approval for a child to continue not be given until near the anniversary of a child's admittance to kindergarten.

I agree to having my child (named above) continue in kindergarten until \_\_\_\_\_  
(may not be more than one year beyond anniversary) (date)

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed/typed name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_