

CONTINUATION EDUCATION

The Governing Board shall provide a continuation education program as an option for at-risk students who may need a flexible educational environment. The continuation education program shall be designed to meet the educational needs of each student, provide an opportunity for participating students to complete the required course of instruction necessary to graduate from high school, emphasize occupational orientation or a work study schedule, and offer intensive guidance services.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)
(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)

The continuation education program shall be aligned with the goals identified in the district's local control and accountability plan, designed and implemented in collaboration with other high schools within the district, and coordinated with other educational options available to district students.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter School Authorization)
(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint a director of continuation education who shall be responsible for the organization and administration of the district's continuation education program and guidance, placement, and follow-up services for participating students. (5 CCR 11000, 11003)

The continuation high school shall be conducted for not less than 180 days during a school year. The Board may maintain continuation classes during the district's regular school hours, during special school hours for these classes established by the Board, or during such hours and for such length of time during the day or evening that adult education classes are maintained. (Education Code 48434; 5 CCR 11004)

(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)
(cf. 6112 - School Day)

Students eligible for continuation education classes shall be age 16 or older at the time of their enrollment and shall not have graduated from high school. (Education Code 48400, 48413)

A student may be involuntarily transferred into a continuation education program in accordance with law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48432.5)

CONTINUATION EDUCATION (continued)

With the consent of the Superintendent or designee, a student may voluntarily enroll in continuation classes in order to receive special attention such as individualized instruction. (Education Code 48432, 48432.3, 48432.5)

Priority for voluntary enrollment in continuation classes shall be given to students who need credit recovery in order to graduate with their peers and to students who, due to employment, pregnancy, parenting responsibilities, or other circumstances, are unable to attend a comprehensive high school. A student with a disability shall be admitted only if his/her individualized education program specifically states that a continuation high school setting meets his/her needs.

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

Enrollment criteria shall be applied consistently throughout the district. (Education Code 48432.3)

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

Students may be enrolled in a regional occupational center or program within the county in lieu of, or in combination with, continuation education. (Education Code 48432)

(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

Students otherwise subject to compulsory attendance in continuation education classes may be exempted if they meet any of the conditions specified in Education Code 48410 and AR 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly evaluate the effectiveness of district continuation education programs and report these evaluation results to the Board. Indicators may include, but not be limited to, disaggregated data on student enrollment, student assessment results, and graduation rates.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

CONTINUATION EDUCATION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

46170 Minimum school day for continuation schools and classes

48400-48454 Compulsory continuation education, especially:

48400 Weekly minimum attendance requirement

48402 Minors not regularly employed

48410-48416 Compulsory continuation education

48430-48438 Continuation classes

48450-48454 Violation

48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion

48900.5 Student discipline

48903 Limitations on days of suspension

51224-51225.3 Courses of study

60850-60856 High school exit examination

FAMILY CODE

7000-7002 Emancipation of minors law

7050 Purposes for which emancipated minor considered an adult

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

11000-11010 Continuation education

COURT DECISIONS

Nathan G. v. Clovis Unified School District (2014) Cal.App.5th (No. F065485)

Management Resources:

JOHN W. GARDNER CENTER FOR YOUTH AND THEIR COMMUNITIES PUBLICATIONS

Raising the Bar, Building Capacity: Driving Improvement in California's Continuation High Schools, May 2012

Intake Processes at Continuation High Schools: Shaping School Climate Through Selection and Enrollment Strategies, February 2011

WEB SITES

California Continuation Education Association: <http://www.cceanet.org>

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

John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, Stanford School of Education:
<http://jgc.stanford.edu>

Policy

adopted: November 16, 1999

revised: June 26, 2001

revised: November 18, 2014

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California

CONTINUATION EDUCATION**Program Components**

The district's continuation education program shall include the following components:

1. Curriculum that prepares students to meet the course requirements for graduation prescribed in Education Code 51224-51225.3 (5 CCR 11004)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.51 - State Academic Achievement Tests)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

2. A plan to coordinate instruction and training in the continuation education program with students' parents/guardians, employment, and other agencies (5 CCR 11003)

3. Instruction based on individual student needs as determined by counseling and coordination services (5 CCR 11002)

4. Personal guidance in matters affecting students' personal, social, and educational adjustment (5 CCR 11001)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

5. Occupational guidance to prepare students for future employment opportunities (5 CCR 11001)

6. Placement in suitable employment whenever students can benefit from such employment, and follow-up visitations at places of employment to determine the effectiveness of the guidance and placement services (5 CCR 11001)

(cf. 5113.2 - Work Permits)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)

7. Regular home contacts and parent conferences when students are not succeeding in the continuation program (5 CCR 11001)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

8. Regular contacts with students enrolled for only four hours per week and all students suspended from continuation education, with the intent of eventually returning them to the full-time continuation education program (5 CCR 11001)

CONTINUATION EDUCATION (continued)

9. Regular communication with all parents/guardians regarding their child's progress in the educational program

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

10. Opportunities for parent/guardian and community involvement in school activities and program planning

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

11. Student support services that may include, but are not limited to, academic support services, health services or referrals, child care and development services for the children of enrolled students, and/or prevention and intervention services for alcohol or substance abuse

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 5131.6 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)

(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

12. Professional development that includes opportunities for teachers to continually improve their instructional and classroom management skills

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

13. Efforts to ensure school safety and promote a positive school climate

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 3515 - Campus Security)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5138 - Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation)

Involuntary Transfer

A decision to transfer a student involuntarily into continuation education classes shall be based on a finding that the student meets either of the following conditions: (Education Code 48432.5)

CONTINUATION EDUCATION (continued)

1. The student committed an act enumerated in Education Code 48900.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities))

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

2. The student has been habitually truant or irregular in attendance from instruction he/she is lawfully required to attend.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Involuntary transfer to a continuation school shall be made only when other means fail to bring about student improvement. However, a student may be involuntarily transferred the first time he/she commits an act enumerated in Education Code 48900 if the principal determines that the student's presence causes a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the instructional process. (Education Code 48432.5)

Prior to an involuntary transfer, the student and parent/guardian shall be given written notice offering a meeting with the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48432.5)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

At the meeting, the student or parent/guardian shall be informed of the specific facts and reasons for the proposed transfer. The student or parent/guardian shall have the opportunity to inspect all documents relied upon, question any evidence and witnesses presented, and present evidence on the student's behalf. The student may designate one or more representatives and witnesses to be present with him/her at the meeting. (Education Code 48432.5)

A written decision to transfer, stating the facts and reasons for the decision, shall be sent to the student and parent/guardian. It shall indicate whether the decision is subject to periodic review and the procedure for such review. (Education Code 48432.5)

The persons making the final decision for involuntary transfer shall not be members of the staff of the school in which the student is enrolled at the time. (Education Code 48432.5)

No involuntary transfer to a continuation school shall extend beyond the end of the semester following the semester when the acts leading to the involuntary transfer occurred. (Education Code 48432.5)

Voluntary Enrollment

As space permits, students who meet the eligibility criteria specified in Board policy may voluntarily enroll in a continuation school. A student may be considered for placement in the continuation

CONTINUATION EDUCATION (continued)

school whenever his/her parent/guardian submits a written request to the Superintendent or designee or the student is referred by a counselor or school administrator.

Approval of a student's voluntary transfer shall be based on a finding that the placement will promote the educational interests of the student. (Education Code 48432.3)

Voluntary enrollment shall be subject to the following conditions: (Education Code 48432.3, 48432.5)

1. A student's voluntary placement in continuation education shall not be used as an alternative to expulsion unless alternative means of correction have been attempted pursuant to Education Code 48900.5.
2. The district shall strive to ensure that no specific group of students, including a group based on race, ethnicity, language status, or special needs, is disproportionately enrolled in continuation education within the district.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

The Superintendent or designee shall annually review disaggregated student enrollment data and report such data to the Governing Board. If it is determined that one or more student groups are enrolled in continuation education at a significantly higher level than their proportional enrollment in the district, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct a review of enrollment criteria and procedures to determine the reason for the disproportionate enrollment.

3. Before a student is transferred and upon request by his/her parent/guardian, the parent/guardian may meet with a counselor, principal, or administrator from both the school that the student is currently attending and the continuation school to determine if transferring is the best option for the student.
4. A student who is voluntarily enrolled in continuation education may return to the regular high school at the beginning of the following semester or at the beginning of the following school year.

Intake and Orientation

Upon voluntary or involuntary transfer to a continuation education program, an intake meeting shall be conducted with each student and his/her parent/guardian. At this meeting, the principal or counselor shall provide information about each course and number of credits that the student needs to complete in order to graduate and shall develop an individualized academic plan for the student. The student, and his/her parent/guardian as appropriate, shall sign a contract indicating their commitment to these objectives.

CONTINUATION EDUCATION (continued)

In addition, at the beginning of each school year, the district coordinator for continuation education, school counselor(s), or other designee(s) shall provide an orientation session for all incoming students and their parents/guardians in order to help them understand the credit recovery process and establish expectations for student conduct and participation. As appropriate, extended orientation sessions may be provided to assist students in developing academic, social, communication, anger management, or other skills necessary to success in school.

Minimum Attendance Requirement

In continuation high schools and classes, a day of attendance shall be at least 180 minutes. (Education Code 46170)

Each student shall attend classes for not less than 15 hours per week. However, if a student gives satisfactory proof of regular employment, he/she may attend classes for not less than four hours per week for the regular school term. These requirements may be met by any combination of attendance in a continuation education class and/or regional occupational center or program. (Education Code 46170, 48402, 48400)

Leaves of Absence

A student enrolled in compulsory continuation education classes may take a leave of absence for up to two semesters for the purpose of supervised travel, study, training, or work in accordance with law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48416)

(cf. 5112.3 - Student Leave of Absence)

Reenrollment

Any person age 16 or 17 years who terminated his/her enrollment in continuation school after obtaining a certificate of proficiency may reenroll in the district once without prejudice. If the student leaves a second time, the Superintendent or designee may deny reenrollment until the beginning of the next semester. (Education Code 48414)

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

Regulation
approved: November 16, 1999
revised: June 26, 2001
revised: August 2003
revised: November 18, 2014

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California