

AR 5123 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)

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 five 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.
6. A thorough evaluation by the school's child study team has been completed.

Acceleration from Transitional Kindergarten to Kindergarten

Transitional Kindergarten is the first year of a two-year Kindergarten program. Transitional Kindergarten students may not accelerate to kindergarten if they do not meet the Kindergarten age-eligible criteria (Education Code 4800-48002). It is expected that students enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten will complete the two-year program before entering first grade.

Acceleration (placement one [1] grade level higher than the next consecutive grade)

Acceleration is possible when high academic achievement is evident and may be recommended as one way to meet a student's needs. In addition to achievement, the student's social and emotional growth shall be taken into consideration before placing him/her in a higher grade.

1. The acceleration procedure may be originated by the parent or current classroom teacher.
2. The current classroom teacher shall have observed the child for at least eight (8) weeks and during this time will have compiled an anecdotal record describing concrete and specific examples of behavior which indicate his/her level of development physically, socially and emotionally, and intellectually.
3. The principal and/or appropriate staff member will observe the child in the current educational setting.
4. The district psychologist will assess the child's intellectual development.

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5. A conference will be held with the principal, teacher and parent (and others deemed necessary by the principal) to review the findings of the study. The following must be determined at the conference in order for acceleration to be considered:
 - a. Student's physical development is consistent with his/her advanced mental ability;
 - b. Student's social maturity is consistent with his/her advanced mental ability;
 - c. Student's emotional maturity is consistent with his/her advanced mental ability; and
 - d. Student is in the upper five percent (5%) of his/her age group in terms of general mental ability.

If the principal determines that the student is a good candidate for acceleration, the advantages and disadvantages of acceleration will be provided and discussed. The final decision regarding acceleration shall be made by the parents/guardians after the principal has decided whether the child is physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually capable of functioning satisfactorily in the next grade level.

Early Admission to School in Private School or Foreign Country

Students entering the Etiwanda School District from a private school or foreign country education system that permits early admission to Kindergarten may be placed in the next grade indicated on their transcripts. The school administrator must meet with the parent/guardian of the early admission student to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of age acceleration in the California public school system. The final decision shall be made by the parent/guardian after the meeting with the school administrator.

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, 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) If a new student is recommended for retention by the previous district, they will be retained by this district.

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

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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)

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)

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.

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)

Level 1: To appeal a teacher's decision, the appealing party shall submit a written request to the principal or designee providing reasons that the teacher's decision should be overruled. The appeal must be submitted within ten (10) calendar days following the date on the retention or promotion notification. The teacher shall be provided an opportunity to state orally and/or in writing to the principal/designee the criteria on which his/her decision was based.

Within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the request, the principal/designee shall determine consistent with materials presented whether or not to overrule the teacher's decision. Prior to making this determination, the principal/designee may meet with the appealing party and the teacher.

Level 2: To appeal a principal's decision, the appealing party shall submit a written request to the superintendent or designee providing reasons that the teacher's decision should be overruled. The appeal must be submitted within fifteen (15) school days following the date on the school principal's decision letter. The teacher shall be provided an opportunity to state orally and/or in writing to the superintendent/designee the criteria on which his/her decision was based.

Within thirty (30) school days of receiving the request, the superintendent/designee shall determine consistent with materials presented whether or not to overrule the teacher's decision. Prior to making this determination, the superintendent/designee may meet with the appealing party and the teacher.

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.

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