Information Sheet – 12/17/19 - Board of Trustees Meeting

TO: Board of Trustees Item: 8.2

FR: Celli Coeville

DATE: December 9, 2019

RE: Board Policy Revision, BP 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention, Consider for Adoption

The Board Policy, BP 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention, is being updated to make minor revisions reflecting current law pertaining to the requirement to provide remedial instruction to students who are recommended for retention or are identified as being at risk for retention.

Recommended Action: Approve the revised BP 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

Students

BP 5123

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

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 district is dedicated to providing the best possible education for all its students. The staff is expected to place students at the grade level best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally. Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade.~~

The ~~Board of Trustees and the school district~~ Governing Board expects students to progress through each grade level within one school year. ~~To accomplish this,~~ Toward this end, instruction ~~should~~ shall be designed to accommodate ~~the varying interests and growth patterns of individual students~~ the variety of ways that students learn and ~~include~~ 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. 6170.1 - Transitional Kindergarten)

Promotion

Students shall progress through all grade levels by demonstrating growth and meeting district promotional standards. Students will be promoted by earning passing grades or by maintaining an average to above-average performance. Students graduating from eighth grade must earn a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 grade scale in all subjects (including electives for their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years.

Students who fail to meet the minimum requirements for graduation may nevertheless be promoted to the ninth grade if (1) the student's regular classroom teachers determine, in writing, that retention is not the appropriate intervention for the student's academic deficiencies; or (2) the regular classroom teacher's decision to retain the student is successfully appealed. Before being, promoted, such students must satisfy all conditions to their promotion which are established by the regular classroom teacher and/or the district.

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.

~~**Remediation** (for retained students and students at risk of being retained)~~

~~When a student is recommended for retention or is identified as being at risk for retention, the Superintendent or designee shall provide opportunities for remedial instruction to address the student's academic progress. Such opportunities may include, but are not limited to, tutorial programs, after-school programs, summer school programs, or implementation of a student study team recommendation.~~

~~The district will choose from the following to qualify students for remediation:~~

~~1. Teacher recommendation based on informal assessment~~

~~2. Student Study Team recommendation~~

~~3. CAASPP ELA/Math ("Standard Nearly Met" or below)~~

~~4. GPA below 2.0 or need to improve on report card~~

~~5. Failing grades on reading, English, language arts and math (4th through 8th grades); reading and writing and math (1st through 3rd grades)~~

~~Retention~~

~~As early as possible in the school year, or at the earliest grade level,~~ Teachers ~~or designees~~ shall identify students who should be retained or who are at risk of being ~~retained in accordance with law, board policy, administrative regulation, and established district criteria.~~ 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 5th Grade and the beginning of the middle school grades

5. Between the end of the 8th Grade 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 With regard to students with special needs, the determination as to the appropriate standards for promotion or retention should be made as part of the individualized education program 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.

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:

In order to retain a student, the teacher (s) shall determine that:

1. The student did not meet district promotional standards
2. Remedial help for the student did not sufficiently prepare the student for advancement to the next grade
3. Appropriate intervention targeted to the student's needs was not successful
4. Parents/guardians were notified and given reasons for the retention

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

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 retain a student may be appealed in accordance with AR 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48070.5, the Board must adopt policy indicating the manner in which supplemental instruction will be provided to students who are recommended for retention or are identified as being at risk for retention. See BP 6179 - Supplemental Instruction for language fulfilling this mandate.

~~When it is determined that retention is necessary, parents/guardians will be notified. Parents shall be expected to participate in a student study team. The SST shall recommend promotion or retention based on the student's academic performance.~~

When any student in grades 2-8 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
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 program
60640-60649 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
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
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