



Grade Level Placement for K-8 students - FAQ

The California Department of Education addresses specific guidelines for grade level placement, promotion and retention of students. California Education Codes 48070.5 and 48011 address the school's responsibility and parent rights for Kindergarten and Grade 1-8 promotion and retention for California public schools.

FAQ's

Q: Under California Education Code 48011 what are the general provisions for retention or promotion of students enrolled in Kindergarten?

A: Both the parent or guardian of the child and the school district must agree that the child may continue in kindergarten for not more than an additional school year.

Q: What is SCS process for retention/promotion of Kindergarten students?

A: All students will automatically be promoted to the next grade level at the completion of each school year. Parents and staff that wish to retain or promote a kindergarten student must use the grade level change request form specifically designed for kindergarten students from the SCS or CDE websites.

Q: Is there a specific process for grade level retention or promotions at SCS for grades 1-8?

A: Yes. All requests for grade level retention or promotions for grades 1-8 must be determined as early in the year as possible and referred to the RTI team in the program in which the student is enrolled.

Q: Why did administration move the retention/promotion policy under the RTI process?

A: Under California Education Code 48070.5 retention/promotion decisions must be based on documentation of all assessments and opportunities for remedial or advanced instruction attempted on behalf of the student over the course of the school year. At SCS, the RTI process currently serves these functions.

Q: Do these new guidelines allow for mid-year retentions and/or promotions?

A: California Education Code requires that school staff identify as early in the school year as possible students who are being considered for retention and/or promotions in order that assessments and instructional interventions can be attempted and measured for success. SCS expects staff to discuss with parents any concerns about student performance and grade level placement by the end of December in order that recommendations and decisions may be made by the end of the school year.

Q: Is there a separate process for students who have an IEP or 504 Plan in place?

A: Yes. Grade level retention or promotions recommendations must be referred to the appropriate department for consideration at the student's IEP or 504 meeting early in the school year (prior to the end of December, if possible).

Q: Where can I receive more information on SCS retention/promotion policy?

A: SCS retention/promotion policy is posted in the school staff handbook on the SCS website.