
GRADE RETENTION POLICY

California Pacific Charter Schools (“CPCS”) has adopted this Grade Retention Policy to apply to all students in grades K-8 requesting grade retention. CPCS does not consider grade retention for students in grades 9-12 (EC 48070). CPCS is committed to the success of each student. Retention is an academic intervention that has a student repeat a grade level that has already been completed. The purpose of retention is to create a bridge between the readiness of a student and the level and pace of instruction.

Whenever possible, in lieu of grade retention, the goal of CPCS is to support struggling learners through the MTSS process, employing research based interventions and academic supports to assist in making educational gains and bringing a student up to grade level. Retention of a student and the repeating of the academic program can happen naturally within an independent study model and doesn’t typically need to be formally reflected in the student’s assigned grade level. Research published by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) shows that grade retention has a negative impact on all areas of achievement including reading, math, oral and written language, and social emotional adjustments such as peer relationships, self-esteem, problem behaviors, and attendance. Studies also show that students who were retained are 5-11 times more likely to drop out of school and that grade retention is one of the most powerful predictors of high school dropout. Therefore, a thorough evaluation of a request to retain will be conducted before approving a retention request.

Please note that TK students that were not eligible for kindergarten due to the age cut-off requirement must finish the two-year program by completing kindergarten before being considered for retention. All other grade levels may request a grade level retention of their student.

CPSC only reviews retention requests at the end of each school year, after the student has been enrolled in the school for the majority of the current school year. Rare exceptions may be made by a school administrator to review a retention request earlier.

A retention request may only be made if a previous SST meeting has been held during the current school year for the student. If an SST meeting was not held during the current school year, then a retention request can not be made for that school year.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must submit the following to a school administrator or designee by the last day of learning period 7:

1. Written request for the retention of the student
2. Explanation of why the request is being made
3. List of all interventions and curriculums utilized during the school year to help the student meet grade level standards
4. Evidence and documentation to show that the student has not yet met grade level standards (this may include, but is not limited to assignment and work records, assessment scores, work samples, report cards). Please note the school may request additional documentation as needed.

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Teachers of students for whom a grade retention request has been made must submit the following to the school administrator or designee by the last day of learning period 8:

1. Completed updated SST request form
2. Updated state and local assessment data
3. Report cards, if applicable
4. Other relevant information

An SST/retention meeting will be held during learning period 9 with the teacher, school counselor, and school administrator or designee. The parent/guardian is invited to attend the beginning of the meeting to explain their request and any documentation, however, their attendance is not required. The team, minus the parent/guardian, will review the information and decide if grade retention is appropriate. If the team cannot come to a consensus, then the Executive Director holds the responsibility of making the final decision. The parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified via email of the decision within five school days of the SST/retention meeting.

If the request is denied, the parent(s)/guardian(s) has the right to appeal. If the retention request is approved, then the parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the Parent/Guardian Retention Acknowledgement Form before the student's grade level will be changed in the school database.

Right to Appeal

If the parent(s)/guardian(s) disagree with the decision, they have the right to appeal to the school's Executive Director.

- 1) Parent(s)/guardian(s) choosing to appeal a denial to retain a student shall submit a request to appeal the decision to the Executive Director with a detailed explanation specifying the reasons why the decision should be overturned. The submission of the request to appeal must occur no later than five school days following the date the parent(s)/guardian(s) were notified via email of the denial.
- 2) The Executive Director shall review the appeal as well as the student's academic performance records on which the SST relied. The Executive Director shall be provided an opportunity to discuss records with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and SST meeting members if deemed necessary by the Executive Director.
- 3) The Executive Director will notify the parent(s)/guardian(a) of their decision via email within seven (7) school days of receiving the appeal request.

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- 4) The Executive Director's decision is final.