Continuation Education

Adopted: 12/08/1998 **| Last Revised**: 08/04/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 08/04/2026

The Board of Education shall provide a continuation education program as an option for students at-risk of not graduating 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.

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.

The Superintendent or designee shall designate an administrator 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.

The continuation high school shall be conducted for not less than 175 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.

Students eligible for continuation education classes shall be age 16 or 17 years at the time of their enrollment and shall not have graduated from high school.

A student may be involuntarily transferred into a continuation education program in accordance with law and Board rule.

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.

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 the student's individualized education program specifically states that a continuation high school setting meets the student's needs.

Enrollment criteria shall be applied consistently throughout the district.

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

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 Board Rule 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.

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 school whenever the parent/guardian submits a written request to the Superintendent or designee or the student is referred by a counselor or school administrator. Failure of a parent/guardian to attend an in-person enrollment meeting shall not prohibit a student from being enrolled in a continuation school.

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

Voluntary enrollment shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. A student's voluntary placement in continuation education shall not be used as an alternative to expulsion unless other 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

3. A copy of the Board policy and accompanying Board rule shall be provided to a student whose voluntary transfer to a continuation school is under consideration and to their parent/guardian

4. Before a student is transferred and upon request by their 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

5. To the extent possible, voluntary transfer to a continuation school shall occur within the first four weeks of each semester

6. A student who is voluntarily enrolled in continuation education may return to the regular high school at the beginning of the following school year, or at any other time with the consent of the Superintendent or designee

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 11000-11010 Continuation education
EDUCATION CODE
46170 Continuation schools; minimum day
48400 Weekly minimum attendance requirement

48400-48454 Compulsory continuation education
48402 Enrollment in continuation education; minors not regularly employed
48410-48416 Compulsory continuation education; exempt students
48430-48438 Continuation classes
48450-48454 Violations
48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion
48900.5 Suspension, limitation on imposition; exception
48903 Limitations on days of suspension
51220-51230 Courses of study; graduation requirements
FAMILY CODE
7000-7002 Emancipation of minors law
7050 Purposes for which emancipated minor considered an adult

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

COURT DECISION
Nathan G. v. Clovis Unified School District (2014) 224 Cal.App.5th 1393
JOHN W. GARDNER CENTER PUBLICATION
Raising the Bar, Building Capacity: Driving Improvement in California's Continuation High Schools, May 2012
WEBSITES
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
California Continuation Education Association http://www.cceanet.org/
John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities, Stanford School of Education http://jgc.stanford.edu/
California Department of Education http://www.cde.ca.gov/

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