



Assembly Bill 104: Frequently Asked Questions

ASSEMBLY BILL 104 - IN BRIEF

Assembly Bill 104 ensures K-12 students aren't penalized for having fallen behind in school during the COVID-19 crisis by providing students and their families with immediate options that support students' individual learning needs. Specifically, the new law:

1. Allows high school students to request a grade change on their transcripts to Pass/No Pass for grades received during the 2020-21 school year.
2. Establishes the right for high school students to access credit recovery opportunities to complete any outstanding graduation requirements, including the opportunity to redo courses or enroll in a 5th year of high school.
3. Provides parents the right to consult with their school to determine if their child should retake a grade level during the 2021-22 school year.

HOW DO FAMILIES REQUEST PASS/NO PASS ON A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S TRANSCRIPT?

Any high school student that was enrolled in high school during the 2020-21 school year is eligible to have their letter grade changed to a Pass or No Pass grade on their transcript. School districts have provided families a form that allows high school students to submit grade change requests.

High school students must act quickly! Students and families have until at least October 1st to submit the grade change request form to the appropriate school official. A school must approve the grade change request if they receive a valid form by October 1st. Parents and students are advised to check with their local school district to find out if they will accept grade change requests beyond October 1st. Families should

also contact their school directly if they have difficulty locating the grade change form.

WILL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT TRANSCRIPTS WITH PASS/NO PASS GRADES?

[California State University \(CSU\)](#) system and [University of California \(UC\)](#) will accept transcripts with Pass/No Pass grades to determine admission for any student that was enrolled in high school in the 2020-21 school year. A list of private universities that have agreed to accept transcripts with Pass/No Pass grades for admissions is also available on the [California Department of Education's website](#).

WILL STUDENTS FORFEIT ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID IF THEY USE THE PASS/NO PASS OPTION?

AB 104 specifically states that a grade change cannot result in a student losing eligibility or entitlement to California state or institutional student financial aid.

Some private, independent universities, including those in other states, may choose not to accept Pass/No Pass grades. Those policies vary and should be verified directly with the individual university.

WILL FAMILIES & STUDENTS BE ABLE TO REQUEST PASS/NO PASS GRADING OPTIONS BEYOND THIS YEAR?

No. AB 104 only provides grade change options for grades attained in the 2020-21 school year.

HOW DO STUDENTS RECEIVE ACCESS TO CREDIT RECOVERY OPTIONS, INCLUDING A 5TH YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL?

Schools are required to provide an eligible student that is not on track to graduate with: (1) the opportunity to complete coursework required for graduation through credit recovery, including by retaking courses or enrolling in a 5th year of high school, and/or (2) exempt the student from local graduation requirements

that extend beyond standard state graduation requirements.

Schools must proactively provide this relief and do not require a request from families. However, families should contact their school officials directly if they wish to exercise a specific option.

WHICH STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT RECOVERY OPTIONS OR EXEMPTIONS FROM LOCAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS?

To be eligible for credit recovery options, like taking a 5th year of high school or retaking a course, a student would have to be in their third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-21 school year, and not on track to graduate by the end of their fourth year.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE ENTITLED TO RETAKE THEIR GRADE?

Under AB 104, parents now have the right to request a consultation with school officials to discuss if their child should retake a grade level. A student and their family are entitled to a consultation if the following eligibility requirements are met:

1. The student received deficient grades in at least one-half of their coursework taken during the 2020-21 school year. A deficient grade is a D, F, No Pass, or any equivalent as determined by the local school entity.
2. The student was enrolled in grade K-11 during the 2020-21 school year.

HOW DO FAMILIES REQUEST A CONSULTATION ON GRADE RETENTION?

To request a consultation, the family of an eligible student must submit a written request to the school where they are seeking to have their child retake a grade during the 2021-22 school year.

If the student is eligible, the school is required to offer a consultation to the family, which must take place within 30 calendar days from the date when the written request is submitted to the school. Schools must then notify families within 10 days of the consultation of their final decision.

WHAT SHOULD FAMILIES EXPECT DURING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS?

Consultations on retaking a grade level occur between a parent, a school administrator, and a teacher. The consultation on grade retention must include:

1. Discussion of all available learning recovery options, including credit recovery, academic and social-emotional supplemental supports, and retaking a grade level.
2. Consideration of the student's academic performance and any other information relevant to whether retaking a grade level is in the student's academic and social interest.
3. Discussion about the research on the effects of student retention and other types of interventions.

DOES A PARENT'S REQUEST RESULT IN AUTOMATIC RETENTION OF THEIR CHILD FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR?

No. Schools have the final say on whether to allow a student to retake a grade level. That decision will be informed by the discussion that occurs during the consultation process.

Under current law, parents do not have a process to request retention for their child. This bill provides a one-year opportunity for parents to engage with their schools about their child's academic and social-emotional needs, which includes discussion of retaking a grade level as an option.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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