



David W. Gordon
Superintendent

October 4, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

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(916) 228-2500

www.scoe.net

Re: *Academic Relief for High School Students Impacted by the Pandemic*

Dear SCOPE Students, Parents and Guardians:

Recognizing the ongoing impact COVID has had on so many of California's students and families, Assembly Bill (AB) 104 was signed into law on July 1, 2021. This new law seeks to provide academic relief for students, especially high school students, in three important ways:

- **A New "Pass/No Pass" Grade Option for High Schoolers:**

Under the new law, parents and guardians of high school students under 18, and students age 18 and older, may request that any letter grades from the 2020-2021 school year be changed to a Pass/No Pass grade. Such a change will not have a negative impact on the student's overall grade point average. Nor may it affect the student's eligibility or entitlement to state or institutional financial aid.

All California State Universities are required to accept, for admission purposes and without negative impact, student transcripts containing this Pass/No Pass grade option instead of a letter grade. The new law also encourages, but does not require, private colleges and the University of California (UC) campuses to do the same. According to the California Department of Education website, it appears the UC schools will also voluntarily be adopting this approach. ***Please note however that while many private colleges have also reportedly agreed to accept Pass/No Pass grades instead of letter grades for admission purposes consistent with the new law, some colleges, including those in other states, may not.*** For a list of the California colleges that have stated they will accept a Pass/No Pass grade consistent with the new law, please click [here](#).

To request a grade change to Pass/No Pass, you need to complete the application that can be found [here](#) and file it with your school. SCOPE schools will accept applications until December 15, 2021.

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- **Students Who Were Third and Fourth Year High School Students in 2020-2021 and Are Not on Track to Graduate Are Exempt from Local Graduation Requirements.** Under the new law, students in their third and fourth year of high school during the 2020-2021 school year will be able to graduate after completing the statewide graduation requirements. In addition, you may speak with your high school teacher or administrator to discuss options for obtaining additional support to help complete the statewide coursework requirements for graduation.
- **For Students TK through grade 11, Parents or Guardians May Request a Special Consultation with School Administrators to Determine If It May Be In Their Child's Best Interest To Repeat the 2020-2021 Academic Year.** For specified students who have fallen behind, parents or guardians may submit a written request for the school to consider academic retention for their child. If you are interested in this option, a meeting will be arranged to discuss the best options for your child.

If you have any questions beyond the details listed above, please contact your teacher or school administrator.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline White

Assistant Superintendent, Court/Community Schools & CTE

Michael Kast

Executive Director, Special Education

JW/MK/rb