



# **Alleviating Pre-Transfer-Level Substandard Grades Post-AB705**

5/3/22 Overview for District Academic Senate



# Overview

- Students may repeat courses for substandard grade alleviation under Title 5.
- In response to AB705, Los Rios will discontinue offerings of pre-transfer level English and Math sequence courses such as MATH 120.
- Course repetition requires repetition of the same course for substandard grade alleviation; when a college stops offering the course, students can no longer use repetition for substandard grade alleviation.
- Title 5 requires Districts to develop standards for academic renewal to discount substandard grades without course repetition.
- Academic renewal may not be accepted at transfer institutions, however, pre-transfer courses would also not be accepted by a transfer institution.
- Los Rios has adopted policies and regulations for Academic Renewal that would allow students to renew substandard grades in these courses, however, students would benefit from exceptions to existing requirements to mirror course repetition processes as closely as possible.



# Title 5 Requirements for Academic Renewal

[Title 5 § 55046](#) requires Districts to adopt policies and regulations for academic renewal without course repetition and must include:

- The maximum amount of coursework that may be alleviated
- The amount of academic work to be completed at a satisfactory level to qualify
- The length of time to have lapsed since receiving the substandard grade
- A listing of exempt courses
- The procedures to be followed by student petitioning
- Personnel responsibilities for implementing the procedures

Districts are responsible for quantifying these values in policy and regulation.



# Current Academic Renewal Requirements

- [R-7252](#) (5.0) Allows academic renewal subject to the following conditions:
  - Only substandard grades may be renewed, inclusive of “D”, “F”, and “NP”. (5.1.1)
  - **A maximum of 30 units may be renewed districtwide (5.1.2)**
  - **A minimum of 12 months must have lapsed between renewal and the end of the semester in which the grade(s) being renewed were earned. (5.1.3)**
  - **A minimum of 12 units must have been earned with a grade of “C”/”P” or better. (5.1.3)**
  - Renewed grades will remain on the student’s transcript, however grade points and units will be discounted and annotated as such through academic renewal. (5.1.4)
- An exception process could be implemented to waive the unit maximum (5.1.2), waiting period and unit completion (5.1.3) requirements to mirror substandard grade alleviation upon completion of the transfer-level course in the applicable sequence with a “C”/”P” or better is achieved.



# Rancho Santiago CCD's AB705 Academic Renewal Exception

- RSCCD revised [AR 4240](#) in 2020 to provide these exceptions:
  - Students may immediately seek grade alleviation without course repetition for substandard work in pre-transfer English, Math or ESL courses in a sequence leading to transfer level upon successful completion of the applicable transfer-level course in the sequence with a “C” or better.
  - Units discounted in this scenario shall not be counted toward the district’s 30 unit academic renewal maximum.
  - Only a “C” or better in the transfer-level course in the same sequence is required to allow academic renewal of the applicable substandard pre-transfer-level course; requirements of a minimum time-lapse and unit completion are waived.
- RSCCD’s regulation takes great care to ensure that these exceptions have a very limited scope, specifying the sequences and IGETC/CSU GE areas the completed course(s) must meet in order to enable the exception.
- Students benefit because they can discount substandard work in courses no longer offered by RSCCD immediately after completion of the associated transfer-level course with a similar outcome to substandard grade alleviation through course repetition.