



## **Chico Unified School District**

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

**Board Policy:**

**#6142.91**

**Section: 6000**

**Instruction**

**Page 1 of 4**

---

### **READING/LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION**

The Governing Board recognizes that reading and other language arts constitute the basic foundation for learning in other areas of study. The Board desires to offer a comprehensive, structured reading/language arts program that ensures all students have the skills necessary to read and write fluently, for meaning, and develops students' appreciation for all types of literature. The program shall integrate reading, and oral and written language arts activities in order to build effective communication skills, including listening, speaking, and composition.

For each grade level, the Board shall adopt instructional materials that meet or exceed the Common Core State Standards in the following strands:

1. Reading: Foundational skills, text complexity and analysis, and the growth of comprehension.
2. Writing: Text types, responding to reading, production and distribution of writings, and research.
3. Speaking and listening: Oral language development, comprehension, flexible communication, and collaboration.
4. Language: Conventions, effective use, knowledge of language, and vocabulary.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's program offers sufficient access to standards-aligned textbooks and other instructional materials. The program shall provide instructional materials of varying levels of difficulty, including fiction and nonfiction works.

#### **Screening for Risk of Reading Difficulties**

The Board shall adopt, at a public meeting, one or more screening instruments to assess students in grades kindergarten-2 for risk of reading difficulties. The screening instrument(s) adopted by the Board shall provide assessments for both English-speaking and non-English speaking students, in languages reflecting the primary languages of students in the district, to the extent assessments in those languages are available. (Education Code 53008)

The district shall annually assess each student in grades kindergarten-2 for risk of reading difficulties. In determining when during the school year to screen students, the district shall consider whether students have received sufficient instruction in foundational reading skills to support a valid assessment. The district may provide additional student screenings or diagnostic evaluations, as appropriate. (Education Code 53008)

If a student enrolls for the first time in grades kindergarten-2 after the screening instrument(s) has been administered, the district shall assess the student within 45 calendar days of enrollment, unless either: (Education Code 53008)

1. The student's parent/guardian opts out of the screening in writing.
2. The student's parent/guardian provides documentation or the district has documentation that the student has had a similar screening in their prior school for their current grade and the parent/guardian was made aware of the results.

Students who do not speak sufficient English to be screened with an English-language instrument shall be screened in their primary language if a screening instrument in their primary language is available. If a screening



## **Chico Unified School District**

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

**Board Policy:**

**#6142.91**

**Section: 6000**

**Instruction**

**Page 2 of 4**

---

instrument is not available in at least one language in which a student is proficient, the student shall be screened in accordance with Education Code 53008.

When a student acquires sufficient English language knowledge and fluency to be able to be assessed using the district's screening instrument, or if a screening instrument in their primary language becomes available, the district shall assess that student using the appropriate screening instrument. (Education Code 53008)

A student may be exempted from the screening for risk of reading difficulties if the parent/guardian provides prior written consent and the student meets any of the following criteria: (Education Code 53008)

1. Has a current identification or diagnosis of a reading difficulty, reading disorder, or other disability.
2. Is eligible for special education and related services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
3. Is in the process of being assessed for eligibility for special education and related services pursuant to IDEA or a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the student is being evaluated with diagnostic assessments that make screening for risk of reading difficulties redundant.

The district shall, no later than 15 calendar days before administration of the screening instrument(s), provide parents/guardians of students eligible for screening for risk of reading difficulties with information about the screening, including the date(s) of the screening and instructions for how parents/guardians can opt out of their child's screening. (Education Code 53008)

### **Staffing and Professional Development**

Teachers are expected to use a variety of instructional strategies to accommodate the needs of beginning readers and writers and the varying abilities of more advanced readers and writers. The program shall provide ongoing diagnosis of students' skills and, as needed, may provide supplementary instruction during the school day and/or outside the regular school session to assist students who are experiencing difficulty learning to read and write.

The Superintendent or designee shall make available professional development opportunities that are designed to provide instructional staff with knowledge about how students develop reading, writing, and language skills, the ability to analyze students' literacy levels, and mastery of a variety of instructional strategies and materials.

Employees administering screening instruments for risk of reading difficulties shall be appropriately trained to administer the instrument. (Education Code 53008)

### **Program Evaluation**

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with data from state and district literacy assessments and program evaluations in the annual Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) to enable the Board to monitor program effectiveness.

---

**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.*



## Chico Unified School District

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

Board Policy:

#6142.91

Section: 6000

Instruction

Page 3 of 4

State	Description
5 CCR 11980-11985.6	<u>Mathematics and Reading Professional Development Program (AB 466 trainings)</u>
5 CCR 11991-11991.2	<u>Reading First achievement index</u>
Ed. Code 33530-33548	<u>Instructional Quality Commission</u>
Ed. Code 44755-44757.5	<u>Teacher Reading Instruction Development Program, K-3</u>
Ed. Code 51210	<u>Course of study for grades 1-6</u>
Ed. Code 51220	<u>Course of study for grades 7-12</u>
Ed. Code 51225.3	<u>High school graduation requirements</u>
Ed. Code 53008	<u>Screening for risk of reading difficulties</u>
Ed. Code 60119	<u>Sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials; hearing and resolution</u>
Ed. Code 60200.4	<u>Fundamental skills</u>
Ed. Code 60207	<u>Curriculum frameworks</u>
Ed. Code 60350-60352	<u>Core reading program instructional materials</u>
Ed. Code 60605	<u>State-adopted content and performance standards in core curricular areas</u>
Ed. Code 60605.8	<u>Common Core standards</u>
Ed. Code 99220-99221	<u>California Reading Professional Development Institutes</u>
Ed. Code 99230-99242	<u>Mathematics and Reading Professional Development Program (AB 466 trainings)</u>
<b>Federal</b>	<b>Description</b>
20 USC 6381-6381k	<u>Even Start Family Literacy Program</u>
20 USC 6383	<u>Improving literacy through school libraries</u>
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
California Department of Education Publication	<u>California Comprehensive State Literacy Plan (Draft), rev. May 2025</u>
California Department of Education Publication	<u>English Language Arts/English Language Development Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten through Grade Twelve, 2014</u>
California Department of Education Publication	<u>Recommended Literature: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve</u>
California Department of Education Publication	<u>California Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, rev. March 2013</u>
Website	<u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>
Website	<u>CSBA</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Education</u>
Cross References	



## **Chico Unified School District**

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

**Board Policy:**

**#6142.91**

**Section: 6000**

**Instruction**

**Page 4 of 4**

---

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
0500	<i>Accountability</i>
4131	<i>Staff Development</i>
4222	<i>Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals</i>
5148.2	<i>Before/After School Programs</i>
6011	<i>Academic Standards</i>
6120	<i>Response To Instruction And Intervention</i>
6141	<i>Curriculum Development And Evaluation</i>
6141.4	<i>International Baccalaureate Program</i>
6142.94	<i>History-Social Science Instruction</i>
6143	<i>Courses Of Study</i>
6146.1	<i>High School Graduation Requirements</i>
6146.4	<i>Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities</i>
6161.1	<i>Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials</i>
6161.11	<i>Supplementary Instructional Materials</i>
6162.5	<i>Student Assessment</i>
6162.51	<i>State Academic Achievement Tests</i>
6163.1	<i>Library Media Centers</i>
6172	<i>Gifted And Talented Student Program</i>
6174	<i>Education For English Learners</i>
6176	<i>Weekend/Saturday Classes</i>
6177	<i>Summer Learning Programs</i>
6179	<i>Supplemental Instruction</i>
6190	<i>Evaluation Of The Instructional Program</i>