



TO: Chief Instructional Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Executive Officers
Admissions and Records

FROM: Stacey Shears, Vice Chancellor of Student Services

RE: Regulatory Revisions to Academic and Progress Probation and Dismissal

This memorandum addresses the implementation of the Board of Governors' regulatory revisions relating to academic and progress probation and dismissal. This regulatory action was filed with the Office of Administrative Law and the California Secretary of State on March 18, 2026, and becomes effective April 17, 2026. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, section 52010, community college districts have 180 days from the effective date, until Oct. 14, 2026, to align local policies and procedures to the revised regulatory requirements. Districts and colleges are advised to begin their local review process to ensure timely regulatory implementation.

Background

On Nov. 18, 2025, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved regulatory action to amend Title 5, California Code of Regulations, sections [55031](#) through [55034](#) and to make conforming amendments across related provisions, including sections [51018](#), [55022](#), [55024](#), [55510](#), [55521](#), [55523](#), [55525](#), [56404](#), [58106](#), [58108](#), [58621](#), and [58732](#).

Academic Probation and Dismissal Nomenclature Changes

The regulation replaces the terminology for academic and progress probation with academic and progress notice and replaces academic and progress dismissal with academic and progress pause. In addition, the regulation introduces "academic or progress restart," to describe a student's return from pause, in conjunction with existing reinstatement processes.

These changes adopt more supportive and student-centered language in lieu of punitive terminology, reframing academic challenges as part of a continuum of progress that includes notice, pause, and restart. This approach emphasizes recovery and continued progression, which supports improved student retention and persistence.

Performance-Based Extension of Academic and Progress Notice

The regulation establishes a performance-based extension of academic and progress notice in section 55033 for students who demonstrate improvement at the term level. Specifically, students on academic notice who earn a term grade point average of 2.0 or higher, or students on progress notice who successfully complete more than 50 percent of units attempted, shall have their notice status extended by one additional term even if cumulative deficiencies persist.

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This provision ensures that students demonstrating measurable progress are not advanced toward academic or progress pause solely due to prior performance reflected in cumulative metrics. The intent is to move beyond a strictly cumulative evaluation model by recognizing upward academic trajectory, supporting student recovery, and reducing the likelihood of premature academic or progress pause.

Continued Access to Student Support Services During Pause

Additional clarifying language is added to section 55033 to specify that “Students on academic or progress pause shall remain eligible to access support services and to enroll in noncredit courses.” This ensures that students have opportunities to remain connected to the college during a pause period and may continue to receive the support necessary to address academic challenges. By preserving access, the provision promotes successful reentry.

Implementation Requirements for Colleges and Districts

Colleges and districts should begin local review and implementation planning now to ensure timely compliance by **Oct. 14, 2026**. At a minimum, districts should:

- Review and revise policies, administrative procedures, catalog language, and student-facing materials.
- Inform relevant faculty, staff, and administrators of the revised regulations and associated local procedures.
- Coordinate with technology and student information systems staff to update technology systems, business processes, forms, and automated notifications.

Chancellor’s Office Contact

The final filed regulatory text may be accessed on the [Chancellor’s Office Regulatory Actions page](#). For questions or additional guidance regarding this memorandum, please contact Vice Chancellor of Student Services, Stacey Shears, at SShears@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Rowena Tomaneng, Deputy Chancellor
James Todd, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
Allison Beer, Dean of Educational Services and Supports