

## AT-RISK STUDENTS

The term "at-risk" has emerged as an expression to describe students who, although still in school, are at risk of experiencing continued classroom retention, and/or social failures. Ultimately, they may leave school without acquiring the skills, attitudes and sense of self-confidence needed to become productive citizens in our society.

At-risk students may be found at any educational level and may have any ability level. They may have internal and/or external factors in their lives which interfere with their capacities or desires for learning and/or performing successfully in school. These factors may be long-term or short-term, and may or may not have easy or immediate solutions.

Regardless of the life factors influencing at-risk students, it is imperative that in-school solutions are identified to support the academic success and positive social/emotional growth of at-risk students. Our democratic society will be "at risk" of its survival if large numbers of our young people are unprepared for productive, meaningful adult lives.

Each school site shall develop and implement a plan to identify at-risk students and institute intervention programs designed to support their success in school. The plan shall address the following steps:

1. Provide District students with a solid foundation in organizational skills, study skills and essential life management skills.
2. Develop and implement collaborative processes and strategies for identifying, intervening with, and monitoring the progress of, at-risk students.
3. Develop and implement strategies for early (K-3) and ongoing (4-12) remediation interventions designed to assist at-risk students in becoming grade-level proficient in reading and writing skills.
4. Investigate and implement, as appropriate, alternative or innovative programs which are supportive of improved behavior and academic success in at-risk students.

*(cf. 5143.2 - Alcohol and Other Drugs)*

*(cf. 5143.1 - Tobacco)*

*(cf. 5171 - Child Abuse and Neglect)*

*(cf. 5173 - Suicide Prevention)*

*(cf. 5174 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)*

*(cf. 5175 - Child Care)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

Policy  
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**CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
San Juan Capistrano, California