

CALPADS Update Flash #139

Date: July 24, 2018

To: Local Educational Agency (LEA) Representatives

From: California Department of Education (CDE) —
California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Team



Assigning Grade Levels for Ungraded Elementary and Ungraded Secondary Students

Grade levels Ungraded Elementary (UE) and Ungraded Secondary (US) were retired in CALPADS as of June 30, 2018. In the past, these grade levels have often been used for students with disabilities. Local educational agencies (LEAs) will need to ensure appropriate grade level placement of all students who have been assigned grade levels of UE or US. For students with disabilities, LEAs should consider the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and what is best for the student using the following guidance.

Ungraded Elementary

Students who were previously identified with a grade level of UE should be assigned the grade level most aligned with the student's age at the time of enrollment. The chart below shows examples of grade level assignments by age.

| Age | Grade |
|-----|-------|
| 5 | K |
| 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 4 |
| 10 | 5 |
| 11 | 6 |
| 12 | 7 |
| 13 | 8 |

Ungraded Secondary

Students who were previously identified with a grade level of US should either be assigned the grade level most aligned with their age, or a grade level based on credits earned.

Age-based Grade Level Assignments

Students of secondary age who have not earned enough high school credit to be placed in grades nine through 12 may be assigned the grade level that is most aligned with their age. Students who are ages 18–22 and in transition or work experience programs and were previously placed in US should be assigned to grade 12*.

The chart below shows examples of grade level assignments by age.

| Age | Grade |
|-----|-------|
| 14 | 9 |
| 15 | 10 |
| 16 | 11 |
| 17 | 12 |
| 18 | 12 |
| 19 | 12 |
| 20 | 12 |
| 21 | 12 |
| 22 | 12 |

Scenario: John is a student with a disability and is 18 years old. He attends school with his same-age peers in a fully-integrated setting in 12th grade. To continue his learning success and personal empowerment in this setting, the IEP team determines that he will be assigned grade 12

*Please note that if the student has not previously attempted or taken the California Science Test by grade 11, the student will be required to take or attempt to take the test regardless of grade.

Credits-based Grade Level Assignments

Students who have earned enough high school credit to fall within any grades nine through 12 can be assigned a grade level based on the number of credits they have earned toward a high school diploma.

Scenario: Ann is a 17-year-old student with a disability and has attained credits equivalent to a 10th grade student. The IEP team believes that having Ann assigned to 10th grade will ensure that she can achieve all her goals and credits for a high school diploma.

NOTE: Further guidance regarding assigning grade levels in Dashboard Alternative School Status (DASS) schools is forthcoming.