

STUDENTS

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Governing Board believes that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians understand learning goals, identify the student's areas of strength, and those areas needing improvement. Parents/guardians and students have the right to receive course grades that represent an accurate reflection of the student's highest level of achievement and learning.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system based on standards that apply to all students in that course and grade level. Principals and teachers shall ensure that student grades conform to this system. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how student achievement will be evaluated in the classroom.

A teacher shall base a student's grades on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery primarily through summative assessments, but may include a variety of secondary methods such as classwork homework, and portfolios. The student's behavior, participation, academic honesty, and effort shall be reported in separate evaluations, not in his/her academic grade.

Students in Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten shall receive a report card that indicates progress toward meeting standards/expectations rather than letter grades.

The teacher of each course shall determine the student's grade. The grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy and administrative procedure. (Education Code 49066)

When reporting student grades to parents/guardians, teachers may add narrative descriptions, observational notes, assessment results, and/or samples of classroom work in order to better describe student progress in specific standards, skills, and subcategories of achievement.

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

A report card for a student with a disability may contain information about his/her disability, including whether that student received special education or related services, provided that the report card informs parents/guardians about their student's progress or level of achievement in specific classes, course content, or curriculum.

**Excused Absences**

The Board desires to emphasize the importance of learning, so students who are absent (excused or unexcused) shall be given the opportunity to make up all summative assessments without penalty. If there is not enough evidence of a student's level of proficiency, the student will receive an incomplete. However, students with excessive unexcused absences may receive a failing grade and not receive credit for the class(es).

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant

48070 Promotion and retention

48205 Excused absences

48800-48802 Enrollment of gifted students in community college

48904-48904.3 Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts

49066 Grades; finalization; physical education class

49067 Mandated regulations regarding student's achievement

49069.5 Students in foster care, grades and credits

51242 Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics

76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

6101-6251 School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

COURT DECISIONS

Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo (2002) 122 S.Ct. 934

Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District (2<sup>nd</sup> Appellate District 2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1

Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School District (N.D.Cal. 1989) 720 F.Supp. 764

Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education (App. 2 Dist. 1986) 224 Cal. Rptr. 885, 179 C.A. 3d 593

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