Liberty Union High School District

Board Policy

Classification:	Students	Policy No.	BP 5121
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		Effective	3/9/94
Subject:	Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement	Revised	2/26/25

The Governing Board believes that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians understand performance expectations and by identifying the student's areas of strength and those areas needing improvement. Parents/guardians and students have the right to receive course grades and/or progress toward course completion.

Grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping teachers make real-time instructional decisions. Students have a right to earn grades that clearly and accurately reflect competency in the course. Grades should nurture growth mindsets, focus on student learning, empower all students to take ownership of their learning, and be an accurate evaluation of their academic performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system that shall be applied to all students in that course and grade level. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how academic performance will be evaluated in the classroom.

A teacher shall base a student's grades solely on the quality of the student's academic work and their mastery of course content and state/district standards. Students may have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, tests, projects, portfolios, and/or class discussions as appropriate. Other elements that are not a direct measure of knowledge and understanding of course content, such as attendance, effort, student conduct, and work habits, shall not be factored into the academic grade but may be reported separately.

Whenever a student misses an assignment or assessment due to an excused or unexcused absence, the student shall have the opportunity to earn full credit for subsequent satisfactory completion of the assignment or assessment.

The Board believes that fourteen unexcused class truancies per grading period constitute excessive unexcused absences. Students with excessive unexcused absences may receive a failing grade and not receive credit for the class(es).

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

A report card for a student with a disability may contain information about the student's disability, including whether that student received special education or related services, provided that the report card informs parents/guardians about their child's progress or level of achievement in specific classes, course content, or curriculum. However, transcripts that may be used to inform postsecondary institutions or prospective employers of the student's academic achievements shall not contain information disclosing the student's disability.

A grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

Grades and units shall be awarded on the basis of achievement of skills and knowledge as specified in the course of study. Courses of study shall reflect state/district standards. No partial credit is to be awarded to students for any course in the comprehensive high school which by Board approval of the course of study earns five credits per semester unless otherwise stated. Partial credit may be awarded in alternative education programs. However,

the award of each five units of credit should be based on the degree to which the student has achieved the content outcomes as stated in the course of study.

A student who has not been enrolled in a course during a portion of a term should not be penalized if the student can demonstrate mastery of course content at a performance level expected of students in the course who have been enrolled for the entire term and are receiving full credit.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages (GPA), including the courses to be included within the GPA and whether extra grade weighting shall be applied to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary/dual enrollment courses.

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.

State	Description
5 CCR 10060	Criteria for high school physical education programs
5 CCR 30008	Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility
Ed. Code 48070	Promotion and retention
Ed. Code 48205	Excused absences
Ed. Code 48800-48802	Enrollment of gifted students in community college
Ed. Code 48904-48904.3	Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts
Ed. Code 49066	Grades; finalization; physical education class
Ed. Code 49067	Mandated regulations regarding student's achievement
Ed. Code 49069.5	Students in foster care; grades and credits
Ed. Code 51242	Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics
Ed. Code 69432.9	Cal Grant program; notification of grade point average
Ed. Code 76000-76002	Enrollment in community college

Federal	Description
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
34 CFR 99.1-99.67	Family Educational Rights and Privacy

Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education (1986) 179 Cal.App.3d 593
Court Decision	Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District (2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1
Court Decision	Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo (2002) 534 U.S. 426
Court Decision	Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School District (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764
CSBA Publication	Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades, Governance Brief, July 2016
U.S. DOE Office for Civil Rights Correspondence	Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Website	California Student Aid Commission
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
4127	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4127	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4131	Staff Development
4222	Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals
4222	Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals
4227	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4227	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4231	Staff Development
4327	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
4327	Temporary Athletic Team Coaches
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.2	Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits
5123	Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
5123	Promotion/Acceleration/Retention
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5125.2	Withholding Grades, Diploma Or Transcripts
5125.3	Challenging Student Records
5126	Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5132	Dress And Grooming
5132	Dress And Grooming
6011	Academic Standards
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6141.5	Advanced Placement
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6144	Controversial Issues
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit

6146.5	Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements
6152	Class Assignment
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses
6154	Homework/Makeup Work
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6162.5	Student Assessment
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6179	Supplemental Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
9150	Student Board Members

(4/15, 2/25)