

Students

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Governing Board believes that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians understand performance expectations and identifying 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 evaluation of the student's academic performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system, and principals 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 solely on the quality of the student's academic work and his/her mastery of course content based on district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, tests, projects, portfolios, and/or class discussion 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 either an excused or unexcused absence, he/she shall be given full credit for subsequent satisfactory completion of the assignment or assessment.

If a student misses class without an excuse and does not subsequently turn in homework, take a test or fulfill another class requirement which he/she missed, the teacher may lower the student's grade for nonperformance.

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 his/her 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).

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The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point average (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 courses.

- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
- (cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
- (cf. 5125 - Student Records)
- (cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)
- (cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)
- (cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 5125 - Student Records)
- (cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
- (cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
- (cf. 6141.4 - International Baccalaureate Program)
- (cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)
- (cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)
- (cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
- (cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)
- (cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)
- (cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 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
- 69432.9 Cal Grant program; notification of grade point average
- 76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools
- 30008 Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

- 99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

COURT DECISIONS

- Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo, (2002) 534 U.S. 426
- Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District (2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1
- Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School Dist. (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764
- Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education (1986) 179 Cal.App. 3d 593

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Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades, Governance Brief, July 2016

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS CORRESPONDENCE

Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Student Aid Commission: <http://www.csac.ca.gov>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr>

6/10/92
(12/91 10/95) 3/02
12/12/07
3/8/17

Students

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Grades for Achievement

Student progress will be evaluated each grading period and reported to parents/guardians using District approved report cards.

Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of failing a course, the teacher shall arrange a conference with the student's parent/guardian or send the parent/guardian a written report. (Education Code 49067)

An Incomplete is given only when a student's work is not finished because of illness or other excused absence. If not made up within the time period equivalent to the days of absence, the Incomplete shall become an F.

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class may be adversely affected due to the fact that the student, because of circumstances beyond his/her control, does not wear standardized physical education apparel. (Education Code 49066)

When reporting student grades 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall inform teachers of the district's policy regarding grading, including expectations that grades shall be based on factors that directly measure students' knowledge and skills in the content area and shall not include nonacademic factors.

Report cards displaying students' grades in each subject or course shall be distributed to parents/guardians at the end of each grading period. Parents/guardians shall be offered an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher(s) to discuss the grades and strategies to improve their child's performance.

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)
(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

For each student in grades 9-12, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain a transcript recording the courses taken, the term that each course was taken, credits earned, final grades, and date of graduation.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

Grades for Physical Education

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class may be adversely affected due to

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the fact that the student, because of circumstances beyond his/her control, does not wear standardized physical education apparel. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

Student performance in high school physical education courses shall be based upon evaluation of the student's individual progress, attainment of goals in each instructional area, tests designed to determine skill and knowledge, and physical performance tests. (5 CCR 10060)

High school students using interscholastic athletic participation to fulfill physical education requirements, as authorized by Education Code 51242, may be graded on this participation provided a teacher credentialed to teach physical education supervises this participation and assigns the grade.

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Grades for College Courses

When the district has approved a student to receive district credit for coursework completed at a community college or four-year college, he/she shall receive the same letter grade as is granted by the college.

Grades for Citizenship and Work Habits

Grades for citizenship and effort shall be reported each marking period.

Pass/Fail Grading

The Superintendent or designee may identify courses or programs for which students may, with parent/guardian permission, elect to earn a Pass or Fail grade instead of a letter grade.

Students who receive a Pass grade shall acquire the appropriate semester units of credit for the course. The grade shall not be counted in determining class rank, honors list, or membership in the California Scholarship Federation. Students who receive a Fail grade shall not receive credit for taking the course.

Peer Grading

At their discretion, teachers may use peer grading of student tests, papers and assignments as appropriate to reinforce lessons.

Grade Weighting for International Baccalaureate and Pre-International Baccalaureate Courses, Advanced Placement and Honors Courses

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When calculating a student's grade point average, extra grade weighting shall not be assigned to a course required for admission to the University of California or the California State University unless the Superintendent or designee has submitted the course curriculum to the President of the University of California and has received approval. (Education Code 51220.3)

Partial Credits

When a student transfers into a district school, the district shall accept and issue full credit for any coursework that the student has satisfactorily completed while attending another public school, a juvenile court school, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency and shall not require the student to retake the course. (Education Code 51225.2)

If the student did not complete the entire course, he/she shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall be required to take the portion of the course that he/she did not complete at his/her previous school. However, the district may require the student to retake the portion of the course completed if, in consultation with the parent/guardian for the student, the district finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a student in any particular course, he/she shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that he/she may continue and complete the entire course. (Education Code 51225.2)

Partial credits shall be awarded on the basis of 0.5 credits for every seven class periods attended per subject. If the school is on a block schedule, each block schedule class period attended shall be equal to two regular class periods per subject. Partial credits and grades earned by a student shall be included on the student's official transcript within two business days of the district's notification of the student's transfer, as required under Education Code 49069.5.

Repeating Classes

A student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. Both grades received shall be entered on the student's transcript.

The higher course grade would be assigned to the specific academic content requirement for graduation. The lower course grade and any applicable credit would be assigned for graduation credit under "electives".

Withdrawal from Classes

A student who drops a course during the first six weeks of the grading period may do so without any entry on his/her permanent record card. A student who drops a course after the first six weeks of the grading period shall receive an F grade on his/her permanent record, unless otherwise decided by the principal or designee because of extenuating circumstances.

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Effect of Absences on Grades

Teachers who choose to withhold class credit because of excessive unexcused absences shall so inform the students and parents/guardians of such a possibility at the beginning of the school year or semester.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

When an unexcused absence occurs, the student and parent/guardian shall again be notified of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences.

The student and parent/guardian shall have a reasonable opportunity to explain the absences. (Education Code 49067)

If a student receives a failing grade because of excessive unexcused absences, the student's record shall specify that the grade was assigned because of excessive unexcused absences. (Education Code 49067)

Grades for a student in foster care shall not be lowered if the student is absent for any reason specified in Education Code 49069.5.

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

Grade Point Average

Each academic year, the Superintendent or designee shall provide to the Student Aid Commission the GPA of all district students in grade 12, except for students who have opted out or are permitted by the rules of the Student Aid Commission to provide test scores in lieu of the GPA. (Education Code 69432.9)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)
(cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

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