

## Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement

### Students

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 achievement.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)  
(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish 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 through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests, and portfolios.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)  
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

\*\*\*Note: Education Code 49066 provides that the grade assigned by a teacher is final, absent any clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency. Pursuant to Education Code 49066, the Governing Board and Superintendent cannot order a student's grade changed unless the teacher, to the extent practicable, is given an opportunity to state the reasons why the grade was given and to be included in all discussions regarding the changing of the grade; see AR 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records. In *Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District*, the court determined that a citizenship mark is a "grade" within the meaning of Education Code 49066 and upheld a teacher's right to make the final decision regarding a citizenship mark.\*\*\*

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, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

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.

\*\*\*Note: The following optional paragraph reflects correspondence issued by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, which clarifies that, because report cards are intended for parents/guardians and not for persons outside the district, they may contain information about a student's disability without violating the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR 99.1-99.67). However, transcripts may not provide information about a student's disability because there is an expectation that these documents could be shared with persons other than the student and his/her parents/guardians. See BP/AR 5125 - Student Records for further information regarding the confidentiality of student records.\*\*\*

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.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

#### Effect of Absences on Grades

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. It is the expectation that the student will make up the work for excused or unexcused absences.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

\*\*\*Note: Pursuant to Education Code 49067, the Board may authorize teachers to assign failing grades to students with excessive unexcused absences, the number to be set by the Board.\*\*\*

\*\*\*Note: Districts using the following optional paragraph should fill in the blank to specify the number of unexcused absences for which students may receive a failing grade.\*\*\*

The Board believes that seven unexcused absences 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).

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

### Grade Point Average

\*\*\*Note: The following optional section is for use by districts that maintain secondary schools and may be revised to reflect district practice. Also see the accompanying administrative regulation.\*\*\*

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, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

### 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

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)

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

#### 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 District, (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764  
Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, (1986) 179  
Cal.App.3d 593

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Aiming High: High Schools for the 21st Century, 2002

Taking Center Stage: A Commitment to Standards-Based Education for California's  
Middle Grades Students, 2001

Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

CORRESPONDENCE

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

WEB SITES

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>

CSBA (3/02 11/03 7/09) 11/09

CVUSD (4/86) 1/10