

BP 5121 Students

## **Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement**

Amended August 13, 2020

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

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 regulation.

Teachers shall evaluate a student's work in relation to standards which apply to all students at his/her grade level. 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.

If the district is required to alter the instructional program for students due to an emergency, the Superintendent shall ensure that the district's uniform grading system continues to comply with state requirements.

Grades should be based on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and objectives. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests and portfolios.

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.

Students in grades K-8 shall receive standards-based evaluations rather than letter grades in order to give parents/guardians more information about their children's developmental levels and also promote students' self-esteem and experiences of success. Students in grades 6-8 shall also receive evaluations of their work habits.

### Grade Point Average (GPA)

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages.

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>

Policy BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: September 2009 Berkeley, California

revised: January 11, 2012