

**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 ~~achievement~~academic performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system ~~based on standards~~ that apply be applied 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~~academic performance will be evaluated in the classroom.

A teacher shall base a student's grades ~~on impartial, consistent observation of~~solely on the quality of the student's academic work and his/her mastery of course content ~~and based on~~ district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, such as classroom participation, homework, tests, projects, portfolios, and experiential learning, 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.

~~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. (Education Code 49066)~~

Students in grades K-3 shall receive progress reports at the end of each grading period rather than letter grades.

At all grade levels, report cards may include reports of student progress on specific academic standards applicable to the course and grade level.

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.

~~The teacher of each course shall determine the student's grade. The A 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. (Education Code 49066)~~

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.

## ~~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.~~

## ~~Grade Point Average (GPA)~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages (GPA).~~

### 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 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:

#### 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>

## Policy

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revised: March 17, 2016

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Santa Monica, California**