

Policy 5121: Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2003 | **Last Revised Date:** 07/01/2016 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 07/01/2016

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 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 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.

A teacher may assign a failing grade to a student who has 10 or more unexcused absences during the grading period.

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.

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)

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.

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

5 CCR 10060

Description

[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

20 USC 1232g

Description

[Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\) of 1974](#)

34 CFR 99.1-99.67

[Family Educational Rights and Privacy](#)

Management Resources

Court Decision

Description

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	<u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u>
5113.1	<u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u>
5113.2	<u>Work Permits</u>
5113.2	<u>Work Permits</u>
5123	<u>Promotion/Acceleration/Retention</u>
5123	<u>Promotion/Acceleration/Retention</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5125.2	<u>Withholding Grades, Diploma Or Transcripts</u>
5125.3	<u>Challenging Student Records</u>
5126	<u>Awards For Achievement</u>
5126	<u>Awards For Achievement</u>
5127	<u>Graduation Ceremonies And Activities</u>
5132	<u>Dress And Grooming</u>
5132	<u>Dress And Grooming</u>
6011	<u>Academic Standards</u>
6020	<u>Parent Involvement</u>
6020	<u>Parent Involvement</u>
6141.2	<u>Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs</u>
6141.2	<u>Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs</u>
6141.5	<u>Advanced Placement</u>
6142.4	<u>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</u>
6142.7	<u>Physical Education And Activity</u>
6142.7	<u>Physical Education And Activity</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6143	<u>Courses Of Study</u>
6144	<u>Controversial Issues</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145	<u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u>
6145.2	<u>Athletic Competition</u>

6145.2	<u>Athletic Competition</u>
6146.11	<u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u>
6146.11	<u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u>
6146.3	<u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u>
6146.3	<u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u>
6146.5	<u>Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements</u>
6152	<u>Class Assignment</u>
6152.1	<u>Placement In Mathematics Courses</u>
6152.1	<u>Placement In Mathematics Courses</u>
6154	<u>Homework/Makeup Work</u>
6155	<u>Challenging Courses By Examination</u>
6155	<u>Challenging Courses By Examination</u>
6158	<u>Independent Study</u>
6158	<u>Independent Study</u>
6162.5	<u>Student Assessment</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6179	<u>Supplemental Instruction</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
9150	<u>Student Board Members</u>