

**Regulation 5121: Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement**

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/01/2009 | Last Revised Date: 07/01/2016 | Last Reviewed Date: 07/01/2016

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.

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)

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.

**Grades for Academic Performance**

For grades K-3, students' level of progress for each grading period shall be reported as follows:

- O Outstanding
- S Satisfactory
- N Needs Improvement

For grades 4-12, grades for academic performance shall be reported for each grading period as follows:

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding Achievement	4.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Above Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Average Achievement	2.0 grade points
D	(60-69%)	Below Average Achievement	1.0 grade points
F	(0-59%)	Little or No Achievement	0 grade points
I		Incomplete	0 grade points

An Incomplete shall be given only when a student's work is not finished by the end of the grading period because of illness or other excused absence. If not made up within six weeks, the Incomplete shall become an F.

Because of the more rigorous nature of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, and concurrent postsecondary courses, students receiving a grade of A, B, or C in those courses

shall receive extra grade weighting as follows:

A	(90-100%)	Outstanding Achievement	5.0 grade points
B	(80-89%)	Above Average Achievement	4.0 grade points
C	(70-79%)	Average Achievement	3.0 grade points

### **Grades for Physical Education**

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)

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.

### **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**

Any grades assigned for citizenship or work habits, such as effort or study skills, shall be reported as follows:

O	Outstanding
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement

### **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.

### **Repeating Classes**

With the approval of the principal or designee, a student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. Both grades received shall be entered on the student's transcript, but the student shall receive credit only once for taking the course. The highest grade received shall be used in determining the student's overall grade point average (GPA).

### **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.

### **Effect of Absences on Grades**

Teachers who choose to withhold class credit because of excessive unexcused absences shall so inform students and parents/guardians of such a possibility at the beginning of the school year or semester. When a student reaches the number of unexcused absences defined as excessive in Board policy, 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.

### **Grade Point Average**

The Superintendent or designee shall calculate each student's GPA using the grade point assigned to each letter grade in accordance with the scale described in the section "Grades for Academic Performance" above. The grade points for all applicable coursework shall be totaled and divided by the number of courses completed. Pass/Fail grades shall not be included in the determination of a student's GPA.

**OPTION 1:** When plus and minus designations are added to letter grades, they shall not be considered in determining GPA.

**OPTION 1 ENDS HERE**

**OPTION 2:** When plus and minus designations are added to letter grades, a plus shall be computed by adding 0.3 to the value assigned the letter grade and a minus shall be computed by subtracting 0.3 from the value assigned to the letter grade.

**OPTION 2 ENDS HERE**

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)

---

**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	<a href="#">Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District (2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1</a>
Court Decision	<a href="#">Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo (2002) 534 U.S. 426</a>
Court Decision	<a href="#">Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School District (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764</a>
CSBA Publication	<a href="#">Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades, Governance Brief, July 2016</a>
U.S. DOE Office for Civil Rights Correspondence	<a href="#">Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008</a>
Website	<a href="#">CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</a>
Website	<a href="#">California Student Aid Commission</a>
Website	<a href="#">CSBA</a>
Website	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights</a>
Website	<a href="#">California Department of Education</a>

## Cross References

Code	Description
4127	<a href="#">Temporary Athletic Team Coaches</a>
4127	<a href="#">Temporary Athletic Team Coaches</a>
4131	<a href="#">Staff Development</a>
4222	<a href="#">Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals</a>
4222	<a href="#">Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals</a>
4227	<a href="#">Temporary Athletic Team Coaches</a>
4227	<a href="#">Temporary Athletic Team Coaches</a>
4231	<a href="#">Staff Development</a>
4327	<a href="#">Temporary Athletic Team Coaches</a>
4327	<a href="#">Temporary Athletic Team Coaches</a>
5020	<a href="#">Parent Rights And Responsibilities</a>
5020	<a href="#">Parent Rights And Responsibilities</a>
5113	<a href="#">Absences And Excuses</a>

5113	<a href="#"><u>Absences And Excuses</u></a>
5113.1	<a href="#"><u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u></a>
5113.1	<a href="#"><u>Chronic Absence And Truancy</u></a>
5113.2	<a href="#"><u>Work Permits</u></a>
5113.2	<a href="#"><u>Work Permits</u></a>
5123	<a href="#"><u>Promotion/Acceleration/Retention</u></a>
5123	<a href="#"><u>Promotion/Acceleration/Retention</u></a>
5125	<a href="#"><u>Student Records</u></a>
5125	<a href="#"><u>Student Records</u></a>
5125.2	<a href="#"><u>Withholding Grades, Diploma Or Transcripts</u></a>
5125.3	<a href="#"><u>Challenging Student Records</u></a>
5126	<a href="#"><u>Awards For Achievement</u></a>
5126	<a href="#"><u>Awards For Achievement</u></a>
5127	<a href="#"><u>Graduation Ceremonies And Activities</u></a>
5132	<a href="#"><u>Dress And Grooming</u></a>
5132	<a href="#"><u>Dress And Grooming</u></a>
6011	<a href="#"><u>Academic Standards</u></a>
6020	<a href="#"><u>Parent Involvement</u></a>
6020	<a href="#"><u>Parent Involvement</u></a>
6141.2	<a href="#"><u>Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs</u></a>
6141.2	<a href="#"><u>Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs</u></a>
6141.5	<a href="#"><u>Advanced Placement</u></a>
6142.4	<a href="#"><u>Service Learning/Community Service Classes</u></a>
6142.7	<a href="#"><u>Physical Education And Activity</u></a>
6142.7	<a href="#"><u>Physical Education And Activity</u></a>
6143	<a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>
6143	<a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>
6144	<a href="#"><u>Controversial Issues</u></a>
6145	<a href="#"><u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u></a>
6145	<a href="#"><u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u></a>

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