



## Students

### Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

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.

*(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)*

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)

*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*

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.

*(cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)*

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

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.

Students in kindergarten through third grade shall receive narrative 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.

*(cf. 5125 - Student Records)*

### Unexcused Absences

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.



## BOARD POLICY

BP 5121

Adopted: 9/24/02

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(cf. 5113 – Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 6154 – Homework/Makeup Work)

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

48070 Promotion and retention

48205 Excused absences

48431.6 Required systematic review

49066 Grades; finalization; physical education class

49067 Mandated regulations regarding pupil's achievement

51220.3 Extra grade weighting for college admission courses

##### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

##### COURT DECISIONS

Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo, (2002) 122 S.Ct. 934

Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District (2nd Appellate District 2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1

Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School Dist. (N.D.Cal. 1989) 720 F.Supp. 764

Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education (App. 2 Dist. 1986) 224 Cal. Rptr. 885, 179 C.A. 3d 593

#### Management Resources:

##### CDE PUBLICATIONS

*It's Elementary!, Elementary Grades Task Force Report*, 1992

Replaces BP 5121 (8/99)