

Students

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 academic performance.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

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.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

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)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

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.

(cf. 6141.4 - International Baccalaureate Program)
(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)
(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

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

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement (Cont.)

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>

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Students

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

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 9-12, 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 15 school days from the end of the grading period, 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

Calculation of Partial Credits

No less than 5.0 credits earned per class will count toward the semester graduation requirement.

Students who enter late or have transferred into the district during a semester in progress will be able to earn credits based on the number of days of enrollment. For class changed up to four (4) weeks into a semester program can be initiated/changed without loss of credit. Each student and/or change will be individually evaluated.

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement (Cont.)

# of Class Periods (55 min period) or Days Attended	# of Credits Earned (Based on 5 credit per semester/per Subject)
7-13 periods/days	.5 credits earned
14-20 periods/days	1.0 credits earned
21-27 periods/days	1.5 credits earned
28-34 periods/days	2.0 credits earned
35-41 periods/days	2.5 credits earned
42-48 periods/days	3.0 credits earned
49-55 periods/days	3.5 credits earned
56-62 periods/days	4.0 credits earned
63-69 periods/days	4.5 credits earned
70+ periods/days	5.0 credits earned

Foster youth who transfer schools mid-semester have a right to receive full or partial credits, based on seat-time and for work satisfactorily completed before transferring schools. Upon receiving notification that a foster youth is transferring schools, a sending school must issue check out grades and full or partial credits on an official transcript. The receiving school must accept all check out grades and credits, apply them to the same or equivalent courses, and immediately enroll foster youth in the same or equivalent classes as they were enrolled in at the sending school.

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)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

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)

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.

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.

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement (Cont.)

1st Semester Math Grade Change

When a student has failed the first semester of a math class, but passes the second semester with a C- or better, the math teacher may submit a Grade Change Request form to change the student's first semester grade to a D-. The form must be signed by the teacher, Principal and Superintendent. Such grade changes will not be mandated, but will be left to teacher discretion.

Graduating as a Junior

Any student eligible to graduate during their junior year must inform their principal by the end of the first semester in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.

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.

The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages (GPA), including the courses to be included within the GPA and whether extra grade weighting shall be applied to Advanced Placement, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses. The grade points for all applicable coursework shall be totaled and divided by the number of courses completed.

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement (Cont.)

Grade Point Average

For class ranking purposes and for the determination of valedictorian and salutatorian, a total of 8 semesters of AP courses and UC transferable college courses will be used in the calculation. To be considered for valedictorian and salutatorian, students need to have been enrolled in their school of graduation for at least six semesters. Students also need to be enrolled in the equivalent of a six period day.

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be selected based on established criteria and procedures that use multiple measures of academic performance. An additional valedictorian and salutatorian may only be recognized if there is a tie in GPA's.

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)

Pass/Fail grades shall not be included in the determination of a student's GPA. When plus and minus designations are added to letter grades, they shall not be considered in determining GPA.

State	Description
5 CCR 10060	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	Absence for personal reasons
Ed. Code 48800-48802	Attendance at community college
Ed. Code 48904-48904.3	Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts
Ed. Code 49066	Grades; change of grade; physical education grade
Ed. Code 49067	Mandated regulations regarding student's achievement
Ed. Code 49069.5	Records of foster youth
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	Description
20 USC 1232g	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
34 CFR 99.1-99.67	Family Educational Rights and Privacy

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