

## **STUDENTS**

### **SUBJECT: Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement**

It is the responsibility of the program site administrator to see that all pupil grades/credits are recorded on an official transcript issued by the County Office of Education

Annual reviews for special education students must be held according to federal and state education code regulations.

The County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools believe that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians understand performance expectations and identify the student's areas of strength and those areas needing improvement. Students and parents/guardians have the right to receive course grades that represent an accurate evaluation of the student's achievement.

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

The County Superintendent of Schools or designee shall establish a uniform grading system based on standards that apply to all students in that course and grade level, not in relation to the work of other students in one particular class. Site administrators and teachers 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.

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 as demonstrated through classroom participation, homework, tests, and portfolios. The student's behavior and effort shall be reflected in separate evaluations, not in his/her academic grade.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)  
(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)  
(cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)  
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)  
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

The teacher of each course shall determine the student's grade. The grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the County Board of Education or the County Superintendent of Schools except as provided by law, County Office of Education policy and administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

**Students in grades K-3 shall receive progress reports rather than letter grades.**

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.

**Students With Disabilities**

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.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

**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.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant

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

56330(I) Local Comprehensive Plans

56336.3 Continuous Assessment

56337(e) Individual Pupil Assessment

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Adopted: 7-16-80

revised: 11-15-89

revised: 9-20-00

revised: 9-18-02

revised: 6-13-07

revised: 6-9-10

76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

121a.343(d) I.E.P. Review

121a.534 I.E.P. Reevaluation

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600 et seq Credit for High School Regulations

3069 Special Education

10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools

30008 Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility

10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

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) 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 District (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:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Aiming High: High Schools for the 21st Century, 2002

Taking Center Stage: A Commitment to Standards-Based Education for California's Middle Grades Students, 2001

Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

CORRESPONDENCE

Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008

WEB SITES

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>