

Santa Barbara Unified School District Board Policy

BP 5121

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 achievement.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system based on standards that apply to all students in that course and grade level. Principals 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.

A teacher shall base a student's grades on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests, and portfolios.

(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 Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

Students in grades K-6 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.

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)

Grade Point Average

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.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

41505-41508	<i>Pupil Retention Block Grant</i>
48070	<i>Promotion and retention</i>
48205	<i>Excused absences</i>
48800-48802	<i>Enrollment of gifted students in community college</i>
48904-48904.3	<i>Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts</i>
49066	<i>Grades; finalization; physical education class</i>
49067	<i>Mandated regulations regarding student's achievement</i>
49069.5	<i>Students in foster care, grades and credits</i>
51242	<i>Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics</i>
76000-76002	<i>Enrollment in community college</i>

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

10060	<i>Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools</i>
30008	<i>Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility</i>

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1232g	<i>Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</i>
6101-6251	<i>School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994</i>

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

99.1-99.67	<i>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act</i>
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COURT DECISIONS

<i>Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo</i> , (2002) 534 U.S. 426
<i>Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District</i> , (2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1
<i>Swany v. San Ramon Valley Unified School District</i> , (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764
<i>Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education</i> , (1986) 179 Cal.App.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>

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara, California

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