



Santa Ana Unified School District

BOARD POLICY NO: 5121

EFFECTIVE: 06/26/18

REVIEWED: 06/12/18

SUBJECT: Grades/Evaluation of Student Academic Performance
CATEGORY: Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S): List Division(s), Department(s)

SCOPE:

The Governing Board believes 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. 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)

POLICY:

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system that shall be applied to all students in that course and grade level, and principals shall ensure that student grades conform to this system. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how student academic performance will be evaluated in the classroom. (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

DESIRED OUTCOME:

A teacher shall base a student's grades solely on the quality of the student's academic work and his/her mastery of course content based on District standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, tests, projects, portfolios, and/or class discussion as appropriate. Other elements that are not a direct measure of knowledge and understanding of course content, such as attendance, effort, student conduct, and work habits, shall not be factored into the academic grade but may be reported separately.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:

District Policies and Procedures:

At all grade levels, report cards may include reports of student progress on specific academic standards applicable to the course and grade level.

When reporting student academic 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.

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



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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)

Unexcused Absences

Whenever a student misses an assignment or assessment, due to either an excused or unexcused absence, he/she shall be given full credit for subsequent satisfactory completion of the assignment or assessment.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

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:



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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

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 593 224 Cal. Rptr. 885, 179 C.A. 3d 593 UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20



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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>

ADOPTION AND REVISION HISTORY:

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Adopted: (4-98) 6-18

Santa Ana, CA