

Policy 5121: 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.

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.

A teacher shall base a student's grades solely on the quality of the student's academic work and their 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.

Whenever a student misses an assignment or assessment due to either an excused or unexcused absence, they shall be given full credit for subsequent satisfactory completion of the assignment or assessment within a reasonable period of time, which shall be communicated in advance to the students.

A teacher may assign a failing grade to a student who has five (5) or more unexcused absences during the grading period.

Students in grades TK-3 shall receive progress reports at the end of each grading period rather than letter grades.

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 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 their 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.

A grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Governing Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

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 honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses.