

**Students****GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

The Board of Trustees 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 and administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*

Teachers shall evaluate a student's work in relation to standards which apply to all students at his/her grade level. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how student achievement will be evaluated in the classroom.

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*  
*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

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. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests and portfolios.

When reporting student grades 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.

**Unexcused Absences**

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)*

## Students

### **Legal Reference:**

#### *EDUCATION CODE*

48070 *Promotion and retention*

48205 *Excused absences*

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)*

#### *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:**

#### *CDE 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>

Policy Adopted: 01/11/2017

ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Orcutt, California