GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Board of Education believes that grades serve a valuable instructional purpose by helping students and parents/guardians 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 achievement.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)

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 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. The Superintendent or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system, and principals 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.

(cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)
(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 academic content standard attainments, narrative descriptions, observational notes and/or samples of classroom work in order to better describe student progress in specific skills and subcategories of achievement.

Excused & Unexcused Absences

If a student misses class with or without an excuse and does not subsequently turn in homework, take a test or fulfill another class requirement which he/she missed, the student’s grade may be lowered for nonperformance.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Grade Point Average (GPA)

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board the methodology to be used in calculating students’ grade point averages. A 4.0 grade scale shall be used.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
48070 Promotion and retention
48205 Excused absences
48431.6 Required systematic review
49066 Grades; finalization; physical education class
49067 Mandated regulations regarding student’s achievement
49069.5 Students in foster care, grades and credits
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools

Policy Adopted: 02-21-07
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1232g  Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
6101-6251  School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

COURT DECISIONS
Las Virgenes Educators Association v. Las Virgenes Unified School District (2nd Appellate District 2001) 86 Cal.App.4th 1
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
Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2001

WEB SITES
CDE:  http://www.cde.ca.gov