**Students** BP 5121(a)

**GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

The Governing Board 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.

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 Executive Director except as provided by law, Board policy and administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*

Grades for achievement shall be reported for each marking period.

Teachers shall evaluate a student’s work in relation to standards which apply to all students at his/her grade level. The Executive Director or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system, and 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.

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 assignments or make-up work, 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)*

*Legal Reference: (see next page)*

BP 5121(b)

**GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

*Legal Reference:*

*EDUCATION CODE*

*41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant*

*48070 Promotion and retention*

*48205 Excused absences*

*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*

*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20*

*1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*

*6101-6251 School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994*

*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*

*Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2001*

*WEB SITES*

*CDE: http://www.cde.ca.gov*

*Advanced Placement Challenge Project: http://www.apchallenge.net*

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