



RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students

BP 5121(a)

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Board of Education 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 achievement.

(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)
(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system based on standards that apply to all students in that course and grade level. Principals and teachers 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.

A teacher shall base a student's grades on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and District standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests, and portfolios.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

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)

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.

Students will receive evaluations of effort and work habits as well as achievement levels to assist parents/guardians to monitor student's self-esteem, recognize success, and implement home academic improvement strategies.

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

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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.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)

Effect of Absences on Grades

If a student misses class without an excuse and does not subsequently turn in homework, take a test, or fulfill another class requirement which s/he missed within a reasonable time period, the teacher may assign a grade to that assignment.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

The Board believes that 10% unexcused absences per grading period constitute excessive unexcused absences. Students with excessive unexcused absences may receive a failing grade and not receive credit for the class(es).

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Grade Point Average (GPA)

The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages (GPA), including the courses to be included within the GPA and whether extra grade weighting shall be applied to Advanced Placement, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)

(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant

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

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51242 Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics

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)

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

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

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Aiming High: High Schools for the 21st Century, 2002

Taking Center Stage: A Commitment to Standards-Based Education for California's Middle Grades Students, 2001

Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

CORRESPONDENCE

Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008

WEB SITES

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>

Policy
adopted: August 25, 1999
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revised: August 24, 2011
revised: February 10, 2021

RIALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rialto, California