

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Yolo County Board of Education and the Yolo County Office of Education believe 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 County Office or the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools except as provided by law, County Office 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 County Superintendent shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system, and site administrators 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. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

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.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

The County Superintendent shall recommend the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages.

The County Superintendent shall also recommend whether extra grade weighting will be assigned for honors courses that are substantially similar in depth, breadth and rigor to an Advanced Placement course, an entry-level college course or a community college level course.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

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>

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Grades for Achievement

Grades for achievement shall be reported for each marking period as follows:

A	Outstanding Achievement	4.0 grade points
B	Above Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
C	Average Achievement	2.0 grade points
D	Below Average Achievement	1.0 grade points
F	Little or No Achievement	0 grade points
I	Incomplete	0 grade points

Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of failing a course, the teacher shall arrange a conference with the student’s parent/guardian or send the parent/guardian a written report. (Education Code 49067)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)
(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

An Incomplete is given only when a student’s work is not finished because of illness or other absence. If not made up within six weeks, the Incomplete shall become an F.

Grades for Physical Education

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class may be adversely affected due to the fact that the student, because of circumstances beyond his/her control, does not wear standardized physical education apparel. (Education Code 49066)

Student performance in high school physical education courses shall be based upon evaluation of the student’s individual progress, attainment of goals in each instructional area, tests designed to determine skill and knowledge, and physical performance tests.

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

Grades for Citizenship and Effort

Grades for citizenship and effort may be reported each marking period as follows:

O	Outstanding
S	Satisfactory
N	Needs Improvement

Pass/Fail Grading

The County Superintendent may identify courses or programs for which students may, with parent/guardian permission, elect to earn a Pass or Fail grade instead of an A-F grade.

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Students who receive a Pass grade shall acquire the appropriate semester units of credit for the course. The grade shall not be counted in determining class rank, honors list, or membership in the California Scholarship Federation. Students who receive an F grade shall not receive credit for taking the course.

Peer Grading

At their discretion, teachers may use peer grading of student tests, papers and assignments as appropriate to reinforce lessons.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Repeating Classes

With the approval of the site administrator or designee, a student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. Both grades received shall be entered on the student's transcript, but the student shall receive credit only once for taking the course.

The highest grade received shall be used in determining the student's overall grade point average.

Withdrawal from Classes

A student who drops a course during the first six weeks of the semester may do so without any entry on his/her permanent record card. A student who drops a course after the first six weeks of the semester shall receive an F grade on his/her permanent record, unless otherwise decided by the site administrator or designee because of extenuating circumstances.

Absences from School

When an unexcused absence occurs, the student and parent/guardian shall again be notified of the County Office's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

The student and parent/guardian shall have a reasonable opportunity to explain the absences. (Education Code 49067)

If a student receives a failing grade because of unexcused absences, the student's record shall specify that the grade was assigned because of excessive unexcused absences. (Education Code 49067)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Grades for a student in foster care shall not be lowered if the student is absent from school due to either of the following circumstances: (Education Code 49069.5)

1. A decision by a court or placement agency to change the student's placement, in which case the student's grades and credits shall be calculated as of the date the student left school
2. A verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity