

FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS

Policy No.: 5121

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

Board Adopted: June 10, 2005
Revised: September 5, 2006

The Board of Trustees 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 and progress in meeting State and District standards.

The teacher of each course shall determine the student's grade. The grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Board of Trustees or the Superintendent/designee except as provided by law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

Teachers shall evaluate a student's work in relation to standards which apply to all students at his/her grade level. The Superintendent shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system, and 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 an 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 variety of methods and learning modalities such as classroom participation, homework, oral or written tests, presentations, demonstrations, benchmark products, and portfolios.

Unexcused Absences

If a student misses class without an excuse and does not subsequently turn in homework, take a test or fulfill another class requirements that he/she missed, the teacher may lower the student's grade for nonperformance. The student shall be given a reasonable amount of time following each absence in which to complete the missed assignments.

A teacher may assign failing grades for a grading period to any student whose unexcused absences from the teacher's class equal or exceed 8% of the days in that grading period provided the parents/guardians have been given a reasonable opportunity to explain the absences. 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.

When an unexcused absence occurs, the student and parent/guardian shall be notified of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences. The Superintendent/designee will ensure that this policy is implemented in a uniform, fair and even handed manner.

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 Pupil's Achievement
	51220.3 Extra Grade Weighting for College Admission Courses

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Legal Reference: (cont.)

United States Code, Title 20
1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
6101-6251 School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

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