

Fall River Joint Unified School District

Board Policy

BP 5121

Students

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

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.

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 homework, take a test or fulfill another class requirement which he/she missed, the teacher may lower the student's grade for nonperformance.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

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

The Superintendent or designee shall also recommend to the Board 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.

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>
(10/95 3/02) 11/03

Board adopted: 11/4/99

Policy revised: 11/2/05

Regulation 5121

STUDENTS

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

Grades for Achievement

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

Kindergarten

1	Below grade level standard at this time of year
2	At grade level standard at this time of year

For Grades 1 – 3

1	Below grade level standard at this time of year
2	Approaching grade level standard at this time of year
3	At the grade level standard at this time of year
4	Above grade level standard at this time of year

For Grades 4 – 12

A	100 – 90%	Outstanding Achievement	4.0 grade points
B	89 – 80%	Above Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
C	79 – 70%	Average Achievement	2.0 grade points
D	69 – 60%	Below Average Achievement	1.0 grade points
F	59 – 50%	Little or No Achievement	0
I		Incomplete	0

For Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

A	100 – 90%	Outstanding Achievement	5.0 grade points
B	89 – 80%	Above Average Achievement	4.0 grade points
C	79 – 70%	Average Achievement	3.0 grade points
D	69 – 60%	Below Average Achievement	2.0 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)

An incomplete is given only when a student's work is not finished because of illness or other excused absence. If not made up within two weeks, the incomplete will become the grade the student would have received if the incomplete work were counted against the grade.

Plus and minus signs may be used at the option of the teacher.

Students in grades 7 through 12 must earn at least a 2.0 or C grade point average in order to participate in extra-curricular activities.

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)

Grades for Citizenship and Effort

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

- O Outstanding
- S Satisfactory
- N Needs Improvement

U Unsatisfactory

Criteria for determining grades for citizenship may include but are not limited to

1. Student obeys rules
2. Student respects public and personal property
3. Student maintains courteous, cooperative relations with teachers and fellow students
4. Student works without disturbing others

Criteria for determining grades for effort may include but are not limited to

1. Student takes responsibility for having necessary tools and materials
2. Student shows interest and initiative
3. Student goes to work immediately and completes assignments
4. Student uses free time resourcefully

Honor Roll/Renaissance

Each school shall post an Honor Roll or other form of student recognition. All courses except Pass/Fail shall be counted in computing eligibility for the Honor Roll. To qualify for the Honor Roll, a student must receive no current grade below a C and have a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Pass/Fail Grading

With parental approval, students may elect to earn a "Pass" or "Fail" grade instead of an A-F grade in the following courses:

1. All courses taken in the Alternative Education Program
2. All courses taken in the Special Education Program
3. 9-12th grade noncollege preparatory courses taken in summer school
4. 7-12 grader identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) and so indicated in an Individual Learning Plan (ILP).
5. Work experience

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

Students shall be graded Pass/Fail for classes in which they serve as student aides unless predetermined goals and objectives related to specific subject knowledge are on file and have been approved by the principal or designee.

Repeated Classes

With the approval of the principal or designee, a student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. Elective credit will be given for the repeated course. Both grades received will be entered on the student's transcript and both grades will be used to calculate the student's GPA.

Withdrawal from Classes

A student who drops a course during the first three 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 three weeks of the semester shall receive an F grade on his/her permanent record,

unless otherwise decided by the principal or designee because of extenuating circumstances.

Excessive Absences

When an unexcused absence occurs, the student and parent/guardian shall be notified and informed of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences. The student and parent/guardian shall have a reasonable opportunity to explain the absence. (Education Code 49067)

If the absence is not verified as excusable within two days, it shall be recorded as unexcused. The person receiving any explanation of the absence by the parent/guardian shall make a record of this explanation and the date when it was given.

If a student receives a failing grade because of unexcused absences, school records shall specify that the grade was given because of excessive unexcused absences. (Education Code 49067)

Peer Grading

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

Students in Foster Care

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.

Adopted 11-4-99

Revised: 8/2/00, 11/2/05, 2/14/07