

## TK-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Governing Board 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 academic performance.

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

A teacher shall base a student's grades solely on the quality of the student's academic work and his/her mastery of course content based on district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, tests, projects, portfolios, and/or class discussion as appropriate. Other elements that are not a direct measure of knowledge and understanding of course content, such as attendance, effort, student conduct, and work habits, shall not be factored into the academic grade but may be reported separately.

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

Behavior, effort and attendance shall be reported separately and shall not be factored into the academic grade.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*  
*(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)*  
*(cf. 5124 - Communication with Parents/Guardians)*  
*(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)*  
*(cf. 6154 - Homework/Make-up Work)*

<p>Note: Education Code 49066 provides that the grade assigned by a teacher is final, absent any clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetency. Pursuant to Education Code 49066, the Board and Superintendent cannot order a student's grade changed unless the teacher, to the extent practicable, is given an opportunity to state the reasons that the grade was given and to be included in all discussions regarding the changing of the grade; see AR 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records.</p>
--

A grade assigned by the teacher shall not be changed by the Board or the Superintendent except as provided by law, Board policy, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

## **TK-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)**

### **Absences**

Students with excessive unexcused absences (5 absences per trimester) and who are unable to demonstrate grade-level proficiency may be given a Below Proficient mark and may be in danger of retention.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*

*(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)*

Whenever a student misses an assignment or assessment due to either an excused or unexcused absence, he/she shall be given full credit for subsequent satisfactory completion of the assignment or assessment.

*(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)*

#### *Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

48070 Promotion and retention

48431.6 Required systematic review

49066 Grades; finalization; physical education class

49067 Mandated regulations regarding pupil's achievement

Johnson v. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education

(App. 2 Dist. 1986) 224 Cal. Rptr. 885, 179 Cal. App. 3d 593

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

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

#### *Management Resources:*

CDE PUBLICATIONS

It's Elementary!, Elementary Grades Task Force Report, 1992

Policy  
adopted: May 27, 2003  
revised: May 25, 2004  
revised: June 26, 2018

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California

**TK-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

The Superintendent or designee shall inform teachers of the district's policy regarding grading, including expectations that grades shall be based on factors that directly measure students' knowledge and skills in the content area and shall not include nonacademic factors.

Report cards displaying students' grades in each subject shall be distributed to parents/guardians at the end of each grading period. Parents/guardians shall be offered an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to discuss the grades and strategies to improve their child's performance.

*(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)*

Prior to the start of each school year, every teacher will submit to the Superintendent or his/her designee the standard of evaluating student achievement for the teacher's class that shall be included in a published document made available to each student's parent/guardian.

**Trimester Standards Based Evaluation System**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 | Advanced (Exceeds the grade level standard)             |
| 3 | Proficient (At the grade level standard)                |
| 2 | Basic (Approaching the grade level standard)            |
| 1 | Below (Below and/or far below the grade level standard) |

Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of being retained, the teacher shall arrange a conference with the student's parent/guardian. Failing the availability of the parent/guardian, the teacher shall send the parent/guardian a written report. (Education Code 49067)

Students with excessive excused absences (5 absences per trimester) must be given opportunity to learn and exhibit proficiency during the course of the school year. Students will be given 6 (six) weeks to complete class work and demonstrate proficiency.

Plus and minus signs may not be used as an option by the teacher in evaluation practices. Using Trimester Rubrics will guide teachers to effectively evaluate student achievement.

*(cf. 6145 – Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

Teachers will monitor student achievement over time using formative assessments and, as needed, provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency.

## **TK-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)**

### **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)

### **Evaluation of Academics**

Criteria for determining proficiency levels for academic achievement may include but are not limited to:

1. Demonstrated understanding of concepts.
2. Application of skills and principles.
3. Organization and presentation of written and oral reports.
4. Originality and reasoning ability when working through problems.

### **Evaluation of Citizenship and Work Habits**

Criteria for determining proficiency levels for the development of personal and citizenships skills may include but are not limited to:

1. Respectful to people and property
2. Shows interest in learning
3. Prepared and organized
4. Completes documents/assignments when due

### **Honor Roll**

Eligibility for Honor Roll will be determined by proficiency in the following four content areas per trimester:

1. Language Arts
2. Math

**TK-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

3. Science
4. Social Science

The average of the proficiency levels in all content areas will be used to determine eligibility:

- 3 – 3.4 Honors
- 3.5 – 3.9 High Honors
- 4.0 - Principal Honor Roll

Eligibility for Citizenship Awards will use the same process using the criteria for the development of personal and citizenship skills.

**Effect of Absences on Grades**

Teachers who choose to withhold class credit because of excessive unexcused absences shall so inform students and parents/guardians of such a possibility at the beginning of the school year or semester. When a student reaches the number of unexcused absences defined as excessive in Board policy, the student and parent/guardian shall again be notified of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*  
*(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)*

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

Grades for a student in foster care shall not be lowered if the student is absent for any reason specified in Education Code 49069.5.

*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*

**Transiency Issues**

For a student enrolled 20 days or more, the teacher of record shall complete the report card including grades and conferences with parent/guardian.

**TK-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT** (continued)

For a student enrolled less than 20 days, the teacher of record shall complete the report card including any pertinent information, and shall record on the report card, “Child enrolled \_\_\_\_\_ days. No grades given.”

Number of days

For a student who moves after being enrolled for 20 days or more, the teacher of record will complete the report card and place it in the child’s cum to be sent to the new school.

Regulation  
approved: May 27, 2003  
revised: May 25, 2004  
revised: May 10, 2018

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Visalia, California