

K-6 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 relative to the State Standards.

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Individuals with Exceptional Needs)

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, not in relation to the work of other students in one particular class. The Superintendent or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform Standards Based grading system, and principal shall ensure that student grades conform to this system. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how student achievement relative to the State Standards will be evaluated in the classroom.

Grades should be based on the quality of the student's work in relationship to mastery of the established written, taught and tested curriculum. Students shall have multiple opportunities to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of channels such as classroom observation, participation, formative assessments and portfolios.

(cf. 6030 - Integrated Academic and Vocational Instruction)

When reporting student grades to parents/guardians, teachers should use Standards Based rubrics and 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 in grades K-6 shall receive narrative evaluations rather than letter grades via the Standards Based Report Card in order to give parents/guardians more information about their children's academic levels.

Behavior, effort and attendance shall be reported in separate evaluations, not in the student's 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)

K-6 EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Unexcused 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.

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

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

K-6 EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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, if necessary, provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate proficiency.

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 achievement may include but are not limited to:

1. Demonstrated understanding of concepts.
2. Application of skills and principles.

K-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

3. Organization and presentation of written and oral reports.
4. Originality and reasoning ability when working through problems.

Evaluation of Citizenship and Effort

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
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.

K-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

Unexcused 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 10 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 below proficiency mark because of unexcused absences, school records shall specify that the mark was given because of excessive unexcused absences. (Education Code 49067)

(cf. 5113 – Absences and Excuses)

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.

Transiency Issues

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

K-6 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (continued)

For a student enrolled less than 20 days, the teacher of record fills out the report card including any pertinent information, i.e. DRA levels, and writes 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 fill out the report card and place it in the child’s cum to be sent to the new school.

Regulation

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