The Board of Trustees 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 achievement.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system based on standards that apply to all students in that course and grade level. Principals and teachers 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.

A teacher shall base a student's grades on impartial, consistent observation of the quality of the student's work and his/her mastery of course content and district standards. Students shall have the opportunity to demonstrate this mastery through a variety of methods such as classroom participation, homework, tests, and portfolios.

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

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, or administrative regulation. (Education Code 49066)

(cf. 5125.3 - Challenging Student Records)

Students in grades K-4 shall receive progress reports rather than letter grades.

When reporting student performance 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.

A report card for a student with a disability may contain information about his/her disability, including whether that student received special education or related services, provided that the report card informs parents/guardians about their child's progress or level of achievement in specific classes, course content, or curriculum. However, transcripts that may be used to inform postsecondary institutions or prospective employers of the student's academic achievements shall not contain information disclosing the student's disability.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education Under Section 504)
Effect of Absences on Grades

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.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

The Board believes that five unexcused absences per grading period constitute excessive unexcused absences. Students with excessive unexcused absences may receive a failing grade and not receive credit for the class(es).

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Grade Point Average

The Superintendent or designee shall determine the methodology to be used in calculating students' grade point averages (GPA), including the courses to be included within the GPA and whether extra grade weighting shall be applied to International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses.

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced Placement)  
(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)  
(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

Legal Reference: (see next page)
Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
41505-41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant
48070 Promotion and retention
48205 Excused absences
48800-48802 Enrollment of gifted students in community college
48904-48904.3 Withholding grades, diplomas, or transcripts
49066 Grades; finalization; physical education class
49067 Mandated regulations regarding student's achievement
49069.5 Students in foster care, grades and credits
51242 Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics
76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools
30008 Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1232g Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
6101-6251 School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
99.1-99.67 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

COURT DECISIONS

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS
Aiming High: High Schools for the 21st Century, 2002
Taking Center Stage: A Commitment to Standards-Based Education for California's Middle Grades Students, 2001
Elementary Makes the Grade!, 2000

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS CORRESPONDENCE
Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008

WEB SITES
California Department of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov
California Student Aid Commission: http://www.csac.ca.gov
U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr

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GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Written report cards displaying students' grades in each subject or course 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(s) to discuss the grades and strategies to improve their child's performance.

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

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)

For each student in grades 9-12, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain a transcript recording the courses taken, the term that each course was taken, credits earned, final grades, and date of graduation.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

Grades for Achievement

Grades for achievement shall be reported for each marking period.

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 excused absence. If the missed work, including finals, is not made up within two 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)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)
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. (5 CCR 10060)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

Grades for College Courses

When the district has approved a student to receive district credit for coursework completed at a community college or four-year college, he/she shall receive the same letter grade as is granted by the college.

Grades for Citizenship, Study Skills, and Effort

Grades for citizenship, study skills, and effort may be reported as follows:

O Outstanding
S Satisfactory
N Needs Improvement

Weighted Grades

Honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP) and certain college courses will receive a 1 point weighted grade increase for purposes of calculating GPA. IB and AP students are required to take internal assessments for each full year course in order for grades to be weighted upward. All students must successfully complete the full year course with a grade of A, B or C in order to be eligible for the weighted grade; students receiving a grade of D or F do not qualify for a weighted grade.

Pass/Fail Grading

The Superintendent or designee may identify courses or programs for which students may, with parent/guardian permission, elect to earn a Pass or Fail grade instead of a letter grade.

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 a Fail grade shall not receive credit for taking the course.
Repeating Classes

With the approval of the principal 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.

With the approval of the Principal or designee, a student may repeat some courses and receive elective credits and grades towards the district graduation requirement. Those courses include:

- Band
- Chorus
- Film Studies
- Video Production
- Yearbook
- Work Experience
- Cross-Age Tutoring
- Teacher’s Aide

Withdrawal from Classes

Students may add or drop a class within the first three weeks of a course without a penalty. Exceptions may be made with administration approval only for the following reasons: 1) medical reasons; 2) additional coursework that was completed over the summer; 3) academic misplacement; or 4) to add a 5th, 6th, or 7th class. Students must complete the Drop/Add Form which can be picked up in the Counseling Office. Parent signature is required.

Dropping a course after the first three weeks will result in a Withdrawal F for that semester if dropped for other reasons than those stated above.

Effect of Absences on Grades

Teachers who withhold class credit because of excessive unexcused absences shall so inform students and parents/guardians 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)

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 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

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

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