

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD POLICY

Series 5000

Students

BP 5121(1)

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 reflection of what the student has learned and an evaluation of the student's academic growth and performance.

The student evaluation is based on state and district standards. The Superintendent or designee shall establish a uniform grading system that shall be applied to all students in that course and grade level. Principals shall ensure that student grades conform to this system and shall notify teachers at the outset of every school year of any changes made to this policy from the preceding school year. Teachers shall inform students and parents/guardians how academic performance will be evaluated in the classroom.

A teacher shall base a student's grades on the quality of the student's academic work and the student's independent and consistent proficiency of course content based on state and district standards. Students shall have multiple opportunities to demonstrate this proficiency through a variety of methods including, but not limited to, tests, projects, portfolios, and/or class discussion as appropriate. Teachers may choose to provide no cost extra credit opportunities to students that allow them to further demonstrate their proficiency of the course content.

Whenever a student misses an assignment or assessment due to an excused absence, the student shall be given full credit for subsequent satisfactory completion of the assignment or assessment, according to a mutually agreed upon timeline for submission between the student and teacher.

Students in grades K-5 shall receive report cards at the end of each trimester grading period. The reports for trimesters 1 and 2 will communicate what progress students have made toward specific learning goals. The final report card will communicate whether or not students have demonstrated mastery of specific academic skills with consistency and independence. The elementary report card may also contain social-emotional marks.

At all grade levels, report cards may include reports of student progress on specific academic standards applicable to the course and grade level.

When reporting student performance to parents/guardians, teachers may add narrative descriptions, observational notes, and/or samples of classroom work to better describe student progress in specific skills and subcategories of achievement.

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD POLICY

Series 5000

Students

BP 5121(2)

A report card for a student with a disability may contain information about the student's 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.

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)

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

Under extraordinary circumstances, such as, but not limited to, an emergency or disaster, the Superintendent may alter the grading criteria specified in "Grades for Academic Performance" in the accompanying administrative regulation for the semester when the extraordinary circumstances exist. The Superintendent or designee shall present the alterations to the grading criteria to the Board for information and discussion at the next feasible, regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Adopted: 5-24-78

Amended: 5-15-84, 8-5-92, 9-17-02, 11-17-09, 4-17-18, 4-21-20, 10-13-22, 4-29-2025

Legal References:

State	Description
5 CCR 10060	<u>Criteria for high school physical education programs</u>
5 CCR 30008	<u>Definition of high school grade point average for student aid eligibility</u>
Ed. Code 48070	<u>Promotion and retention</u>
Ed. Code 48205	<u>Excused absences</u>
Ed. Code 48800-48802	<u>Enrollment of gifted students</u>

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD POLICY

Series 5000

Students

BP 5121(3)

State

Ed. Code 48904-48904.3

Ed. Code 49066

Ed. Code 49067

Ed. Code 49069.5

Ed. Code 51242

Ed. Code 69432.9

Ed. Code 76000-76002

Federal

20 USC 1232g

34 CFR 99.1-99.67

Management Resources

Court Decision

Court Decision

Description in community college

Withholding grades, diplomas,
or transcripts

Grades; finalization; physical
education class

Mandated regulations
regarding student's
achievement

Students in foster care; grades
and credits

Exemption from physical
education based on
participation in interscholastic
athletics

Cal Grant program;
notification of grade point
average

Enrollment in community
college

Description

Family Educational Rights and
Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974

Family Educational Rights and
Privacy

Description

Johnson v. Santa
Monica Malibu Unified School
District

Board of Education (1986) 179
Cal.App.3d 593

Las Virgenes Educators
Association v. Las Virgenes
Unified School District (2001)
86 Cal.App.4th 1

OAK PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD POLICY

Series 5000

Students

BP 5121(4)

Court Decision	<u>Owasso Independent School District v. Falvo (2002) 534 U.S. 426</u>
Court Decision	<u>Swany v. San Ramon Valley</u>
Management Resources	Description
	<u>Unified School District (1989) 720 F.Supp. 764</u>
	<u>Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades, Governance Brief, July 2016</u>
CSBA Publication	<u>Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008</u>
U.S. DOE Office for Civil Rights Correspondence	<u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>
Website	<u>California Student Aid Commission</u>
Website	<u>CSBA</u>
Website	<u>U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Education</u>