

West Contra Costa USD

Board Policy

Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement

BP 5121

Students

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/**discussion**, ~~homework~~, tests, **projects**, and portfolios **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.**

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.

Students in grades K-3 shall receive narrative evaluations rather than letter grades in order to give parents/guardians more information about their children's developmental levels and also promote students' self-esteem and experiences of success.

In the event that extended school closures result in a substantial interruption and/or alternative methods of instruction, students in the elementary grades shall receive clear and meaningful teacher feedback on report cards, using strengths-based narratives in place of marks for the affected grading cycles. Middle Schools and High Schools will adhere to a Pass/No Mark system. Students who complete work at

a level equivalent to C- or higher shall receive "Pass" and shall receive A-G credit. Students who complete work at a level that is lower than a C- shall receive "No Mark" and will receive credit toward high school graduation but not toward A-G.

~~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.~~

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.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

The Superintendent or designee shall recommend to the Board 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 Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, honors, and/or concurrent postsecondary courses.**

~~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

~~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

69432.9 Cal Grant program; notification of grade point average

76000-76002 Enrollment in community college

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

10060 Criteria for reporting physical education achievement, high schools

51242 Exemption from physical education based on participation in interscholastic athletics

69432.9 Cal Grant program; notification of grade point average
76000-76002 Enrollment in community college
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)

~~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

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

Research-Supported Strategies to Improve the Accuracy and Fairness of Grades, Governance Brief, July 2016

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

CORRESPONDENCE

Report Cards and Transcripts for Students with Disabilities, October 17, 2008

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

CDE: <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>

~~Advanced Placement Challenge Project:~~ <http://www.apchallenge.net>

FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/gradegraduationfaq.asp>

COVID-19 Interim Impacts on CSU Undergraduate Admissions Policies and

Practice <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/csuadmissioncovid19impact.pdf>

Policy WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: August 20, 2008

Richmond, California

revised: **May 6, 2020**

West Contra Costa USD

Board Policy

Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

BP 5123

Students

~~Cautionary Notice 2010-13: AB 1610 (Ch. 724, Statutes of 2010) amended Education Code 37252.2 to relieve districts from the obligation, until July 1, 2013, to perform any activities that are deemed to be reimbursable state mandates under that section. As a result, certain provisions of the following policy or administrative regulation that reflect those requirements may be suspended.~~

The Governing Board expects students to progress through each grade level within one school year. To accomplish this, instruction should accommodate the variety of ways and rates of development that individual students learn and include strategies for addressing academic deficiencies when needed.

Students shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and meeting grade-level standards of expected student achievement.

Progress toward high school graduation shall be based on the student's ability to pass the subjects and electives necessary to earn the required number of credits and meet the minimum proficiency requirements set by the Board. ~~In order to fulfill the West Contra Costa Unified School District graduation requirement, students will be given an opportunity to complete a service-learning project. Each pupil completing Grade 12 shall successfully pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school.~~

As early as possible in the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall identify students who should be retained and who are at risk of being retained in accordance with law, Board policy, **and** administrative regulation, ~~and the following criteria:~~

Students shall be identified for retention on the basis of failure to meet minimum levels of proficiency, as indicated by the results of state assessments administered pursuant to Education Code 60640-60649 and the following additional indicators of academic achievement:

Report card standards or grades where applicable

Site or district assessments

~~California Standards Test~~

When any student in grades 2-9 is retained, recommended for retention, or is identified as being at risk of retention, the Superintendent or designee shall provide direct, systematic, and intensive opportunities for remedial instruction to assist the student in achieving

academic proficiency. Such opportunities may include but are not limited to tutorial programs, after-school programs, and/or summer school programs.

When exceptional academic achievement is demonstrated, the Superintendent or designee may recommend a student for acceleration into a higher grade level. The student's social and emotional growth level shall be taken into consideration in making a determination to accelerate a student.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

~~-37254.1 Supplemental instruction~~

~~41508 Pupil Retention Block Grant~~

46300 Method of computing Average Daily Attendance

48011 Promotion/retention following one year of kindergarten

48010 Admittance to first grade

48070-48070.5 Promotion and retention

Required systematic review of students and grading

56345 Elements of individualized education plan

60640-60649 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

~~-60648 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program~~

~~-60859 Exit examination~~

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

200-202 Admission and exclusion of students

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ~~MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES~~

FAQs Promotion, Retention, and Grading (students with disabilities)

FAQs Pupil Promotion and Retention

Kindergarten Continuance Form

~~Changes in Law Concerning Eligibility for Admission to Kindergarten 90-10~~

CDE PUBLICATIONS

~~Performance Level Tables for the California Standards Tests and the California~~

~~Alternative Performance Assessment~~

~~Parental Agreement Form: Agreement for Pupil to Continue in Kindergarten~~

~~LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OPINION~~

~~Promotion and Retention #21610~~

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: August 20, 2008 Richmond, California

revised: **May 6, 2020**

West Contra Costa USD

Board Policy

High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

Instruction

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

Course Requirements

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after completing the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the district and the state. Students must have 225 credits in order to graduate.

The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include (Education Code 51225.3):

Effective July 1, 2019:

Subject Area Required Credits

English Language Arts 40 credits

Mathematics 30 credits

- * Including 10 credits of Algebra I or above
- * 10 credits may be for an A-G approved computer science course in category
- * "C"

Science 20 credits

- * Biological Science (10)
- * Physical Science (10)

Social Science 30 credits

- * World History (10)
- * U.S. History (10)
- * Government (5)
- * Economics (5)

Physical Education 20 credits

Fine Arts 10 credits
World Language 10 credits
(Fine Arts, World Language or CTE Course with 10 credits each in 2 of the 3 areas for an alternative transcript)

Electives (A - G) 10 credits

Electives 55 credits

Add First Aid and CPR Health Requirement beginning with the graduating class of 2021(Education Code - EDC 49413)

TOTAL 225 credits

Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Governing Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with the law.

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students, and children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701.

In the event that extended school closures result in a substantial interruption and/or alternative methods of instruction, Middle Schools and High Schools will adhere to a Pass/No Mark system. Students who complete work at a level equivalent to C- or higher shall receive “Pass” and shall receive A-G credit. Students who complete work at a level that is lower than a C- shall receive “No Mark” and will receive credit toward high school graduation but not toward A-G. The credits required for graduation will not change.

Certificate of Completion

A student with a disability who (1) has satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Governing Board and identified in his/her individualized education program ("IEP"); (2) has met his/her IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by his/her IEP team; or (3) has satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and has met the objectives of the statement of transition services contained in his/her individualized transition plan in his/her IEP, shall be issued a Certificate of Completion if they are unable to meet district graduation requirements with accommodations. Certificates of Completion require the signature of the Director of Special Services and the Superintendent. No student who is able to earn a high school diploma prior to his/her twenty-second birthday may also earn a Certificate of Completion.

Diploma Requirements

Students transferring within the district must complete the last semester in the school in order to obtain a diploma from that school.

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas pursuant to Education Code 51225.5.

Retroactive Diplomas

Until July 31, 2018, any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma. (Education Code 60851.6)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school

48200 Compulsory attendance

48412 Certificate of proficiency

48430 Continuation education schools and classes

48645.5 Acceptance of coursework

48980 Required notification at beginning of term

49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life

51224.5 Algebra instruction

51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements

51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course

51225.3 High school graduation

51225.35 Mathematics course requirements; computer science

51225.36 Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation

51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students

51228 Graduation requirements

51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements

51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents

51410-51412 Diplomas

51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates

51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

51745 Independent study restrictions

56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education

60851.5 Suspension of high school exit examination

60851.6 Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination

66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria

67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
COURT DECISIONS
O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>

FAQs on Grading and Graduation Requirements

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/gradegraduationfaq.asp>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

COVID-19 Interim Impacts on CSU Undergraduate Admissions Policies and Practice <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/csualmissioncovid19impact.pdf>

Policy WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: June 6, 2007 Richmond, California

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