

GRADING SYSTEMS

The Board of Education recognizes that the classroom teacher has the primary responsibility to evaluate students and determine student grades. Grading is considered a positive tool to indicate achievement and development in each class or subject area in which a student is enrolled.

The district will utilize a uniform grading system. Classroom teachers will evaluate students and assign grades according to the established system.

It is to be recognized that a student is an individual with his/her own abilities and capabilities. It is also recognized that an individual is part of a society which is achievement-oriented and competitive in nature. Hence, when a student's achievement is evaluated, attention should be given to his/her unique characteristics and to accepted standards of performance in the educational setting.

All students are expected to complete the assigned class work and homework as directed. Students are also expected to participate meaningfully in class discussions and activities in order to receive course credit. If work is missed due to absence, the student is expected to make up the work. The student and/or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) should discuss with the student's teacher an appropriate means of making up the missed work. With the possible exception of absence intended by the student as a means of gaining an unfair academic advantage (e.g., to secure more time to study for a test), every effort will be made to provide students with the opportunity and assistance to make up all work missed as a result of absence from class (see 4760, Makeup Opportunities).

The following guidelines will be observed:

1. By October 1st of each school year the building principal, or administrative designee, will review and approve each teacher's grading policies. These policies will be provided to students and parents.
2. Parents are to be informed regularly, at least four (4) times a year, of their child's progress.
3. The use of marks and symbols will be appropriately explained.
4. Grading will not be used for disciplinary purposes, i.e., giving lower grades for unexcused absences, as opposed to giving lower grades for failure to complete assigned work or for lack of class participation. However, a student's misconduct that is directly related to his/her academic performance (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on a test, avoiding an exam to secure more time to study), may be reflected in the student's grade.
5. Grading will be based, in part, upon student improvement, achievement, and participation in classroom discussions and activities.
6. Classroom work missed due to absences from class and the failure to make up the work missed, will be factored into the grade.
7. Absences due to attendance at school-sponsored functions or programs that are directly related to the class work missed as a result of such absence, shall not be counted as an absence for purposes of this policy.

8. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be regularly notified when a student misses class work due to excessive absences. A copy of the letter shall also be sent to the student's guidance counselor and the Building Principal. Communication with parent(s) or guardian(s) regarding a student's performance in classroom work and activities is generally encouraged.

The professional judgment of the teacher should be respected. Once a grade is assigned to a student by a teacher, the grade may only be changed by a district administrator after notification to the teacher of the reason for such change. Should an administrator enforce a grade change, he/she shall be prepared to report to the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Board.

Cross-ref: 5100, Student Attendance
5160, Student Absences and Excuses

Ref: Education Law §§3202; 3205 et seq.
Matter of Ackert, 30 EDR 31 (1990)
Matter of Augustine, 30 EDR 13 (1990)
Matter of Boylan, 24 EDR 421 (1985)
Matter of Burns, 29 EDR 103 (1989)
Matter of Chipman, 10 EDR 224 (1971)
Matter of Dickershaid, 26 EDR 112 (1986)
Matter of Fitchett-Delk, 25 EDR 178 (1985)
Matter of Gibbons, 22 EDR 134 (1982)
Matter of LaViolette, 24 EDR 37 (1984)
Matter of MacWhinnie, 20 EDR 145 (1980)
Matter of McClurkin, 28 EDR 136 (1988)
Matter of Reid, 65 Misc 2d 718 (1971)
Matter of Rivers, 27 EDR 73 (1987)
Matter of Shamon, 22 EDR 428 (1983)

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