

MEMORANDUM

TO: NWABSD Board of Education
Members

DATE: January 22, 2025

NUMBER: 25-046

FR: Office of the Superintendent

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed
Revisions to BP 5121
Grades-Evaluation of
Student Achievement;
First Reading

STRATEGIC PLAN/BOARD GOAL:

Track 1: Operational Improvements
Initiative: Optimize Business Practices

ABSTRACT:

Board policy revisions require Board approval.

ISSUE:

At issue is to approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5121 Grades-Evaluation of Student Achievement and open for public comments.

BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION:

The Superintendent/designee presents drafts or suggestions for board policy revisions when the law changes or specific needs occur. Policy revisions shall normally be given two readings prior to adoption by the Board.

This is the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5121 Grades-Evaluation of Student Achievement within the Students series.

This policy update reflects AASB's determination that automatically assigning failing grades to students for truancy is not in best practice.

The Board Policy Committee reviewed the proposed changes, recommends approval and to open for public comments.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5121 Grades-Evaluation of Student Achievement as presented and open for public comments;
2. Do not approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5121 as presented;
3. Take no final action.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the first reading of the proposed revisions to BP 5121 Grades-Evaluation of Student Achievement as presented and open for public comments.

BP 5121 GRADES/EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The School Board believes that students and parents/guardians have the right to receive course grades that represent an accurate evaluation of the student's achievement. 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.

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 as demonstrated through classroom participation, homework and tests. The student's behavior and effort shall be reported in separate evaluations, not in his/her 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)

Note: The following optional paragraph requires performance or skill-based evaluations rather than letter grades for children in the early elementary grades and may be revised as desired to reflect district philosophy and needs.

In order to promote self-esteem and experiences of success, students in kindergarten through second grade shall receive narrative performance or skill-based evaluations rather than letter grades.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish and regularly evaluate a uniform grading system. Principals shall ensure that student grades conform to this system.

Unexcused Absences

Note: The following optional policy authorizes teachers to modify grades for students who have excessive unexcused absences and may be revised or deleted as desired. While the use of academic penalties for truancy is probably permissible, districts must bear in mind that academic penalties are a severe form of sanction with the potential for permanent harm. In adopting such a policy, several precautions should be followed. First, the school policy must be applied fairly and consistently among students; there should be no question about arbitrary or capricious enforcement. Second, the severity of the academic penalty should correspond to the gravity of the offense. Third, students should be warned ahead of time of all requirements and consequences pertaining to the use of academic penalties. Finally, students should be accorded due process before penalties are consummated, including an opportunity for the student to explain his or her conduct.

If a student misses class without an excuse and does not subsequently turn in homework, take a test, or fulfill another class requirement that they missed, the teacher may lower the student's grade for nonperformance. Teachers shall inform students about the class grading system at the beginning of the semester.

~~*Revised: March 29, 2006*~~

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Revised: March 29, 2006

Revised:

Northwest Arctic Borough School District