

GRADING SYSTEM

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

The District will use a uniform grading system. Classroom teachers will evaluate students and assign grades according to the established system. Grading will be based, in part, upon student improvement, achievement, and participation in classroom discussions and activities. Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) will be informed regularly, at least two times a year, of their child's progress. The use of marks and symbols will be appropriately explained.

Each student is an individual with his/her own abilities and capabilities. 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.

A student is expected to complete the assigned class work and homework as directed. The student is 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) and/or guardian(s) should discuss with the student's teacher an appropriate means of making up the missed work. With the possible exception of absences 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.

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 and/or the Board.

Grade Modifications

Modifications to the District grading policy are allowed in certain circumstances with the approval of the department supervisor and building principal. Modified grading is sometimes allowed for students with excessive absences due to medical reasons, and for students participating in courses with substantial modifications to the curriculum, such as a student eligible for Academic Intervention Services (AIS), a student whose primary language is a language other than English, and a student with disabilities who require a modified curriculum and modified grading.

When it has been determined that a student requires modified grades, the grade to be received by the student should be a measure of how successfully he or she has succeeded in meeting individual goals.

Cross-ref: 4712, Student Progress Reports to Parents
5100, Student Attendance

Ref: Education Law §§3202; 3205 et seq.
Matter of Nathaniel D., 32 EDR 67 (1992)
Matter of Hegarty, 31 EDR 232 (1992)
Matter of Shepard, 31 EDR 315 (1992)
Matter of Handicapped Child, 32 EDR 83 (1992)
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 Dickersbaid, 26 EDR 112 (1986)
Letter to Runkel, 25 IDELR 387 (1996)

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