

Capistrano Unified School District

Evidence-Based Grading Practices



CUSD is committed to grading practices that clearly reflect student progress toward specific learning goals. Aligned with BP 5121.1, students continue to receive traditional letter grades, supported by evidence-based grading that ensures clarity, consistency, and accuracy. This approach helps students and families better understand academic expectations, successes and areas for growth.

Essential Grading Practices to Support Student Learning

AR 5121-Student feedback is essential to the learning process. Every effort should be made to provide feedback through grading assessments, returning work, and reporting via the District-approved learning management system (LMS) within two weeks.

Grading will be Based on CUSD Universal Standards

BP 5121.1: Report cards shall reflect student learning on specific District and state content standards.

Grades will be based on Multiple Opportunities to Demonstrate Mastery

BP 5121.1: Teachers will utilize multiple measures by which students may demonstrate mastery.
AR 5121: Students should be provided with multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of essential state and District standards through the use of intervention, reteaching, and reassessment. These measures shall be used to facilitate and improve the learning process throughout the course. Final grades should accurately reflect students' overall mastery of the state and District standards at the end of the course. Students shall have multiple meaningful opportunities to improve their grades throughout the course, up to and including final assessments.

Grading Practices will be Consistent Across Departments for Each Course

BP 5121.1: Student progress towards mastery of these standards shall be reported utilizing uniform criteria. The Superintendent or designee shall establish uniform grading systems and practices that shall be applied to all students in that course and/or grade level.

Academic and Behavioral Grades will be Reported Separately

BP 5121.1: Other elements that are not a direct measure of knowledge and understanding of District and state content standards shall not be factored into the academic grade but may be reported separately.
AR 5121: The Superintendent or designee shall inform teachers of the District's policy regarding grading, including expectations that grades shall be based on factors that directly measure students' mastery of state standards, knowledge, and skills in the content area and shall not include non academic factors.