

AP 4231

Grade ~~Challenges~~ Changes

Reference: ***Education Code Sections 76224 and 76232;
Title 5 Section 55025***

Date Issued: June 13, 2012

Updated: ~~July 17, 2018~~

Note: This procedure is **legally required**. The following language is provided as a sample. Local practice may be inserted, but must comply with the Education Code and Title 5 and address the following:

~~Procedures for students to challenge the correctness of a submitted grade are set forth in administrative procedure AP 5530 Student Rights, Grievances, and Due Process.~~

Changing Grades

The instructor of the course shall determine the grade to be awarded to each student.

The determination of the student's grade by the instructor is final in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence. "Mistake" may include, but is not limited to, errors made by an instructor in calculating a student's grade, and clerical errors. "Fraud" may include, but is not limited to, inaccurate recording or change of a grade by any person who gains access to grade records without authorization.

The removal or change of an incorrect grade from a student's record shall only be done pursuant to Education Code Section 76232 or by an alternative method that ensures that each student shall be afforded an objective and reasonable review of the requested grade change.

If the procedure requires that a student first request a grade change from the instructor, provisions shall be made to allow another faculty member to substitute for the instructor if the student has filed a discrimination complaint, if the instructor is not available or where the District determines that it is possible that there may have been gross misconduct by the original instructor.

In the case of fraud, bad faith, or incompetence, the final determination concerning removal or change of grade will be made by the [designate position].

In all cases, the instructor who first awarded the grade will be given written notice of the change.

Security of Grade Records

The District shall implement security measures for student records that assure no person may obtain access to student grade records without proper authorization. These measures shall be installed as part of any computerized grade data storage system.

The measures implemented by the District shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, password protection for all student grade data bases, locking mechanisms for computer stations from which student grade data bases can be viewed, and strict limits on the number of persons who are authorized to change student grades.

Persons authorized to change grades shall be designated by the [insert designated position, e.g. "Director of Admissions and Records."] No more than five District employees may be

authorized to change student grades. Only regular full-time employees of the District may be authorized to change grades. Student workers shall not have access to grade records, and student workers may not change grades at any time.

Any person who discovers that grades have been changed by someone other than the persons authorized to do so shall notify the **[designated position]** immediately. The **[designated position]** shall immediately take steps to lock the grade storage system entirely while an investigation is conducted.

If any student's grade record is found to have been changed without proper authorization, the District will notify 1) the student; 2) the instructor who originally awarded the grade; 3) any educational institution to which the student has transferred; 4) the accreditation agency; and 5) appropriate local law enforcement authorities.

Whenever a grade is changed for any reason, corrected transcripts will be sent to any educational institution to which a student has transferred.

Any student or employee who is found to have gained access to grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be subject to discipline in accordance with District policies and procedures.

Any person who is found to have gained access to grade recording systems without proper authorization, or who is found to have changed any grade without proper authority to do so, shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the college where the incident occurred.

Note: The District may insert procedures related to processes for seeking grade changes, time limits, if any, and appeals to the [CEO]. Suggested procedures for doing so are contained in AP 5530 titled Student Grievance Procedures.

Also see BP 3310 titled Records Retention and Destruction and BP/AP 5040 titled Student Records