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ACALANES BOARD REVISES POLICIES ON GRADING, HOMEWORK AND MAKE-UP WORK

On July 21, the Governing Board of the Acalanes Union High School District took action to revise Board Policies on grading, homework, make-up work, and absences. The purpose of these revisions is to provide for more consistent and accurate communication of student learning and assure opportunity to learn for all students.

These policy changes are based on five fundamental beliefs:

1. Grades should reflect student learning.
2. Learning should be measured by student performance based upon performance standards.
3. Performance standards for students should be equitable and clear.
4. Students should have every possible opportunity to learn.
5. Students should have equal opportunity to learn.

Key components of the revised policy on grading are:

- The primary purpose of grades is to communicate demonstrated student achievement relative to district content and performance standards.
- The quality of student work will be assessed based on agreed upon performance standards.
- Students requiring accommodations or modifications shall be identified early enough for the accommodations and modifications to be implemented to support student learning.
- Modified grades shall be based on student performance relative to predetermined and documented performance expectations that are aligned with the student's abilities.

These policy changes will be implemented no later than the **2006-2007** school year. In the next two years, a Committee on Grading, made up of teachers, counselors, and administrators, will be initiated to work out the implementation guidelines of this policy. Additionally, teachers will receive professional development in the implementation of the policy, and parents will have opportunities to learn about how these policies may affect their students.

Key components on the changes in policies on homework, absences, make-up work are:

- Homework should serve a specific purpose, be evaluated and feedback provided to the student in a timely manner.
- Students will be provided the opportunity and are expected to make up work missed due to the following absences:

College visitations
Working election polls
Suspensions

Family vacations
School activities

- Assignments must be made up by the student within two days of his/her return to school for the student to receive credit.
- For absences of 3 days or longer, the timeline for make-up will be determined by the teacher.
- Long term assignments are due on the assigned due date unless other arrangements are made with the teacher.

The changes in the policies on homework, absences and make-up work will be implemented beginning in the **2004-2005** school year.