

## Archived Issues Available at [MontebelloTeachers.org](http://MontebelloTeachers.org)

### Teachers Must Participate in Discipline Committees

While every teacher has a general duty to maintain custody and control over their students, school districts have the legal responsibility to establish and enforce the discipline policy which circumscribes teachers' supervisory efforts. This means that the Board members and administrators are responsible for general school administration, including enforcement of the school district's discipline policy. (5 Cal. Code Reg. § 35294.)

Additionally, each school must adopt rules and procedures on student discipline. After soliciting the views of parents, teachers, and other interested parties, the rules shall be adopted by a panel consisting of the school principal and a teacher representative. It is the duty of each employee to enforce these rules and procedures. (Ed. Code § 35291, 35291.5)

### Law Gives Teachers the Final Word on Students' Grades



The California Education Code protects teachers' rights to grade students. When grades are given for any course of instruction taught in a school district, the grade given to each pupil shall be the grade determined by the teacher of the course and the determination of the pupil's grade by the teacher, in the absence of clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence, shall be final. § 49066: if a parent, student, or administrator challenges a grade the teacher has the right to defend the grade. An Association representative should always be present at such a challenge.

### Teachers Are Responsible for Student Failure Notices

Classroom teachers are directly responsible for notifying parents of possible failing grades. Whenever it becomes evident to a teacher that a student is in danger of failing a course (D or F grade), the teacher must arrange a conference with the student's parent/guardian or send the parent/guardian a written report (failure notice). In all cases the notification must come prior to the assignment of the grade.

The teacher's responsibility for failure notices is stated in California Education Code 49067 and Montebello Unified School District Administrative Regulation 5121 (a).

### Teachers Supervise Volunteers

Teachers often request parent volunteers in their classrooms. It is the decision of the teacher whether or not parent volunteers fit the instructional program. Additionally, teachers decide how and when to utilize volunteer requests. Education Code 51101 states that parents may:

*...volunteer their time and resources for the improvement of school facilities and school programs under the supervision of district employees, including, but not limited to, providing assistance in the classroom with the approval, and under the direct supervision, of the teacher. Although volunteer parents may assist with instruction, primary instructional responsibility shall remain with the teacher.*

**Gloriana Fernandez (SUE) and Myra Pasquier (SUI) participated in the CTA Future Leaders Workshop November 3-5. Participants learned about labor history, effective organizing, effective leadership, and much more!**

