

Absences And Excuses

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in student achievement. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged six to 18 are obligated to send their children to school unless otherwise provided by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

Excused Absences

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations. (Education Code 46010, 48216, 48205)

It is the parent's responsibility to contact the school office in order to verify their student's absence. Upon returning to school, parents will have three (3) days to provide a note or contact the school in person or by telephone to verify the absence. After three (3) days the absence will be permanently unexcused and considered a truancy. Disciplinary action may result from unexcused absences. After three (3) days of cumulative unexcused absences, a truancy letter will be sent home and the District's School Attendance Review Board (SARB) will be notified.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Insofar as class participation is an integral part of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during nonschool hours.

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students and to all students in grades 7 through 12, informing them that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 46010.1)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Students in grades K-6 should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Students in grades 7-12 should not

be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency or confidential medical appointment.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to administrative regulations and law. (Education Code 46014)

Unexcused Absences/Truancy

The Superintendent or designee shall implement positive steps to reduce truancy, such as communication with parents/guardians and the use of student study teams.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Study Teams)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

The district participates in the county school attendance review board as allowed by law in order to meet the special needs of students with school attendance or school behavior problems.

Students who are habitual truants or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be referred to the county probation department.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, a student who has been classified as truant may be referred to the district attorney or probation officer for truancy mediation.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, the school attendance review board or probation officer may ask the County Superintendent of Schools to request a juvenile court petition on behalf of the student.

For purposes of the CalWORKS program, a student shall be determined to be "regularly attending school" until he/she has been referred by the school attendance review board to the county District Attorney.

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)

2550-2558.6 Computation of revenue limits

37201 School month

37223 Weekend classes

41601 Reports of average daily attendance

42238-42250.1 Apportionments

46000 Records (attendance)

46010-46014 Absences

46100-46119 Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools

46140-46147 Attendance in junior high and high schools

48200-48208 Children between ages of 6 and 18 years (compulsory full-time attendance)

48216 Immunizations

48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance

48260-48273 Truants

48292 Filing complaint against parent

48320-48324 School Attendance Review Boards

48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance

49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade

FAMILY CODE

6920-6929 Consent by minor

VEHICLE CODE

13202.7 Driving privileges; minors; suspension or delay for habitual truancy

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

601-601.4 Habitually truant minors

11253.5 Compulsory school attendance

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

306 Explanation of absence

420-421 Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes

66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 245, 249 (1983)

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES

0114.98 School Attendance and CalWORKS, Management Bulletin 98-01

CSBA ADVISORIES

Welfare Reform and Requirements for School Attendance

Policy ADELANTO SCHOOL DISTRICT

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