

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

DEFINITIONS

Chronic absentee means a student who is absent for any reason on 10 percent or more of the school days in the school year, when the total number of days the student is absent is divided by the total number of days the student is enrolled and school was actually taught in the regular day schools of the district, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays.

Truant means a student who is absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year, or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof (Education Code 48260)

Habitual truant means a student who has been reported as a truant three or more times within the same school year, provided the district has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with the student and his/her parent/guardian. (Education Code 48262, 48264.5)

Chronic truant means a student who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for 10 percent or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, provided the district has met the requirements of Education Code 48260-48263 and 48291. (Education Code 48263.6)

ATTENDANCE SUPERVISOR(S)

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint or contract with a supervisor of attendance and assistant supervisors as necessary to supervise the attendance of district students. Such supervisors shall perform duties related to compulsory full-time education, truancy, compulsory continuation education, work permits, and any additional duties prescribed by the Superintendent. (Education Code 48240, 48243, 48244)

ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENCE

When a student is identified as a chronic absentee, the attendance supervisor shall communicate with the student and his/her parent/guardian to determine the reason(s) for the excessive absences, ensure, the student and parent/guardian are aware of the adverse consequences of poor attendance, and jointly develop a plan for improving the student's school attendance.

The student may be referred to a student success team or school-site attendance review team to assist in evaluating the student's needs and identifying strategies and programs that may assist him/her.)

A student who is struggling academically may be offered tutoring or other supplemental instruction, extended learning opportunities, and/or alternative educational options as appropriate.

Whenever chronic absenteeism is linked to a nonschool condition, the attendance supervisor may recommend community resources and/or collaborate with community agencies and organizations to address the needs of the student and his/her family.

RECORDS

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain accurate attendance records for students identified as

habitual or chronic truants. The Superintendent or designee also shall document all contacts with a student and his/her parent/guardian regarding the student's attendance, including a summary of all conversations and a record of all intervention efforts.

The Superintendent or designee shall gather and transmit to the County Superintendent of Schools the number of referrals and types of referrals made to the SARB and of requests for petitions made to the juvenile court. (Education Code 48273)