

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

The Governing Board believes that excessive absenteeism whether caused by excused or unexcused absences, may be an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and may put students at risk of dropping out of school. The Board desires to ensure that all students attend school in accordance with the state's compulsory education law and take full advantage of educational opportunities provided by the district.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance in order to identify individual students who are chronic absentees and truants, as defined in law and administrative regulation, and to identify patterns of absence throughout the district. He/she shall provide the Board with data on school attendance, chronic absence, and truancy rates for all district students, for each school, and for each numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such data shall be disaggregated and used in the development of annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement and for inclusion in the district's local control and accountability plan and other applicable school and district plans.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention of attendance problems, which may include, but are not limited to, efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness with the school, school-based health services, and incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance. The Superintendent or designee also shall develop strategies that enable early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance.

The Superintendent or designee shall work with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. He/she also may collaborate with child welfare services, law enforcement, courts, public health care agencies, other government agencies, and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to ensure that alternative educational programs and nutrition, health care, and other support services are available for students and families and to intervene as necessary when students have serious attendance problems.

Students who are identified as truants shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation.

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for his/her out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Alternative disciplinary strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the district's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students and for each numerically significant student population. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to make changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in identification of how to best allocate available community resources.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

In accordance with law and administrative regulation, habitual truants may be referred to a School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

The Board may submit a nomination to the County Superintendent of Schools for a person who will serve on the county SARB as a representative of school districts.

The Board shall appoint members of the district's SARB, who may include, but are not limited to, a parent/guardian as well as representatives of the district; county probation department; county welfare department; county office of education; law enforcement agencies; community-based youth service centers; school guidance personnel; child welfare and attendance personnel; school or county health care personnel; school, county, or community mental health personnel; the county district attorney's office; and the county public defender's office.

The district's SARB shall operate in accordance with Education Code 48320-48325 and procedures established by the Superintendent or designee.

LEGAL REFERENCE**EDUCATION CODE**

1740	Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)
37223	Weekend classes
41601	Reports of average daily attendance
46000	Records (attendance)
46010-46014	Absences
46110-46119	Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
46140-46147	Attendance in junior high and high schools
48200-48208	Children ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)
48225.5	Work permits, entertainment and allied industries
48240-48246	Supervisors of attendance
48260-48273	Truants
48290-482967	Failure to comply; complaints against parents
48320-48325	School attendance review boards
48340-48341	Improvement of student attendance
48400-48403	Compulsory continuation education
48900	Suspension and expulsion
49067	Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
52052	Academic Performance Index; numerically significant student subgroups
60901	Chronic absence

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act
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PENAL CODE

270.1	Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor
272	Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy
830.1	Peace officers

VEHICLE CODE

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

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

256-258 Juvenile hearing officer 601-601.4 Habitually truant minors

11253.5 Compulsory school attendance

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5306 Explanation of absence

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

15497.5 Local control and accountability plan template

COURT DECISIONS

L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES**CSBA PUBLICATIONS**

Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014

ATTENDANCE WORKS PUBLICATIONS

Count Us In! Working Together to Show that Every School Day Matters, 2014

The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 2015

School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Attendance Works: <http://www.attendanceworks.org>

California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance: <http://www.cascwa.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Healthy Kids Survey: <http://chks.wested.org>

California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System: <http://www.cal-schls.wested.org>