

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

The Governing Board believes that absenteeism, whatever the cause, 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.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(c.f. 5113.11 – Attendance Supervision)

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 districtwide for each school, and disaggregated for each numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such data shall be used in the development of annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement and to be included in the district's local control and accountability plan and other applicable school and district plans.

(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)
(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)
(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)
(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)
(c.f. 0500 – Accountability)

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.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)
(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)
(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy.

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

Interventions for students with serious attendance problems shall be designed to meet the specific needs of the student and may include, but are not limited to, health care referrals, transportation assistance, counseling for mental or emotional difficulties, academic supports, efforts to address school or community safety concerns, discussions with the student and parent/guardian about their attitudes regarding schooling, or other strategies to remove identified barriers to school attendance. The Superintendent or designee 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 make alternative educational programs and support service available for students and families.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)
(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)
(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)
(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)
(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)
(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)
(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

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.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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.

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

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. (Education Code 48321)

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. (Education Code 48321)

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*

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

EDUCATION CODE (continued)

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*

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 5

306 *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>