

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

The Governing Board believes that ~~excessive student absenteeism and tardiness, whether~~ *whatever the* ~~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 ~~classified as~~ *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 to be included 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 schools, 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~~ *consult* with students, parents/guardians school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy.

*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. He/she also* 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 ~~ensure that~~ *make* 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 ~~sole~~ basis for his/her ~~out-of-school~~ suspension or expulsion. Alternative ~~disciplinary~~ strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

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The Superintendent or designee shall regularly analyze data on student absence to identify patterns of absence districtwide and by school, grade level, and student population. Such data shall be used to identify common barriers to attendance, prioritize resources for intervention, and monitor progress over time. The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report this information to the Board *regarding the district's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students and for each numerically significant student population.* for purposes of evaluating *Such information shall be used to evaluate* the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and making changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee also shall provide this information to key school staff and community agency partners to engage *them school staff* in program evaluation and improvement and in *identification the determination* of how to best allocate available community resources.

School Attendance Review Board

In accordance with law and administrative regulation, habitually 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, county or community mental health personnel.

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

1740-1742	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
48290-48296.7	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	<i>Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups</i>
60901	Chronic absence

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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

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

*Improving student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Brief, December 2010*  
*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*

CDE PUBLICATIONS

School Attendance Review Board Handbook: *2012 A Road Map for Improved School Attendance and Behavior, 2015*  
School Attendance Review Board 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 Health Kids Survey: <http://chks.wested.org>  
California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System: <http://www.cal-schls.wested.org>  
*OnTrackCA: <http://www.ontrackca.org>*

Adopted

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Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Silver Valley Unified School District