

**STUDENTS**

**SUBJECT: Absences and Excuses**

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)  
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)  
(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

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

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

Inasmuch as school attendance and class participation are integral to students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical and other appointments during non-school hours.

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

The Board shall, by resolution entered into its minutes, approve reasonable methods that may be used to verify student absences due to illness or quarantine. (5 CCR 421)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)

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 ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)

48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance  
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  
48980 Parental notifications  
49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade  
49701 Provisions of the interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children

**ELECTIONS CODE**

12302 Student participation on precinct boards

**FAMILY CODE**

6920-6929 Consent by minor for medical treatment

**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

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS**

87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)

66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 244 (1983)

**COURT DECISIONS**

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

**Management Resources:**

**CSBA PUBLICATIONS**

Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Brief, December 2010

**WEB SITES**

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