

There are **365** days in a year *minus* **180** school days *which leaves* **185** days for family time and vacations!

Chronic Absence? Truancy? What's the difference?

The path to success begins early in life. Education needs to be a top priority in order for children to thrive. The best chance for student success begins when children attend school every day, on time, and stay the entire scheduled day.

California law states all persons between 6 and 18 years of age are required to attend school. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child's attendance to school. (Education Code Section 48200).

What is Chronic Absence?

Students are chronically absent when they have missed 10% or more days for both excused and unexcused absences for total days enrolled.

Districts are required to report chronic absence data to the California Department of Education per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, Section 111(h)(1)(C)(viii)).



What is Truancy?

A student is considered truant if they are absent 3 full days and/or tardy for more than a 30 minute period during the school day without a valid excuse, or any combination thereof. (Education Code Section 48260).

Parents are notified by letter regarding truancy, which includes language required by state law. (Education Code 48260.5)

A student's refusal to attend school regularly can result in referral to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), Juvenile Probation, and the Juvenile Court System (Education Code Section 48263 and 48293).

How you can help your student(s):



Make sure students come to school well rested with a good night's sleep.



Allow plenty of time to get ready, get out the door, and transition to school.



Have clothes and shoes ready and homework in the backpack the night before.



Call the school for each day of illness or injury.



Bring doctor notes to the school office the day after an appointment and/or absence.



Respond to school messages about your student's attendance.



Talk with the teacher and/or principal if your student has concerns about going to school.

Questions? Contact your school's office for more information.

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