

## What is SARB?

### School Attendance Review Board

The School Attendance Review Board or SARB was established by the California Legislature in 1975 for the purposes of helping students who are not going to school and keeping students and parents out of the juvenile court system.

In order to meet the needs of students and their families, the legislation provides for a multi-agency SARB that includes school site/district representatives, school guidance personnel, health care personnel, DCFS, Child Welfare personnel, law enforcement, and the District Attorney's office.

#### Who is referred to SARB?

- Students with chronic attendance problems.
- Students with chronic behavior problems which have not been resolved through school and community efforts.

## The SARB Process?

### **FIRST - Six (6) Unexcused Absences:**

First Truancy Notification / Warning Letter mailed home (SARB I).

### **SECOND - Nine (9) Unexcused Absences:**

Second Truancy Notification Letter mailed home (SARB II). You will be asked to attend a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting at school. You may also be required to attend an informational meeting with the Principal.

### **THIRD - Twelfth (12) Unexcused Absences:**

Third Notification of Truancy Letter mailed home (SARB III). A referral to SARB is made by the school site for the parent and the student to be summoned to appear at a SARB Hearing.

## Why Is Attendance Such A Big Issue?

Regular attendance is vital to student's success in school. The student, who is frequently absent, misses social interaction and direct instruction from his/her teachers even though written work can be made up. Attendance is a key predictor of dropouts. Dropouts create economic loss and jeopardize future work force since only 31% of dropouts keep a job more than a year.

## How Much Revenue Is Lost Due To Attendance?

Schools in California are funded on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). ADA is the primary funding source for all schools/school districts in California.

## What Does It Mean To "Verify" My Child's Absence?

When a student is absent, parents are required to call or send a note to the attendance office in order to validate the reason for the child's absence. We call this process: Absence Verification.

## If You Forget To Call About Your Child's Absence On The Day Of His/Her Absence?

You may call to verify your child's absence up to 72 hours after your child has been absent. Absences that are not verified, will be considered unexcused absences. After our attendance month accounting cycle closes, unexcused absences (due to no-verification) cannot be overwritten or changed.

## Absences That Are Not Excused or Verified?

If a child is absent due to a reason deemed as unacceptable or their absence is not verified, then they will be "unexcused" for the day. These types of absences are considered "truancies".

## What To Do If My Child Needs To Be Out Of School For A Length Of Time?

If your child must go out of town for five or more days, you may request a short term Independent Study. Please note that you must make an appointment with the Principal or Assistant Principal for approval of the Independent Study at least two weeks in advance of the trip.

---

## Do you know the Attendance Laws?

**Education Code 48200:** Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years are required to attend school full time, unless otherwise exempt.

**Ed Code 48263.6:** Any student who is absent from school (without a valid excuse) for ten percent or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, is deemed a chronic truant.

**Education Code 48293:** Failure to comply with SARB is an infraction and the parent may be fined up to \$500 for the first violation, \$1,000 for the second violation, or \$2,000 for the third violation.

**Penal Code 270.1:** If parents allow their children in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade to miss 10% or more of the school year, they can be prosecuted for a misdemeanor with up to one year in jail and \$2,000 in fines.

