

PURPOSE OF SARB

The purpose of SARB is to divert students with school attendance and/or behavioral problems from the juvenile justice system to assist families in finding ways to ensure consistent attendance and success in schools.

SARB may do one or more of the following:

- Recommend changes in the student's school program and/or classes
- Direct the student and/or family to counseling/parenting classes
- Request assistance from other county and/or community agencies and programs
- Refer chronic attendance and/or behavior problems to the District Attorney Truancy Mediation Program for further assistance

FACTS RELATED TO ABSENTEEISM:

- **Absence patterns are established as early as kindergarten**
- **Older children in the family frequently set attendance patterns for younger brothers and sisters**
- **Erosion of parental control contributes to absenteeism and other behavioral problems**
- **Absenteeism results in a major loss in educational achievement and test performance**
- **Absenteeism raises the cost per student for education**
- **Research reflects high absenteeism contributes to a higher drop out rate, youth violence, and vandalism**
- **80% of current prison inmates are high school drop-outs.**
- **Attendance is best when students are involved in school programs in which they can succeed**

HACIENDA LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD



STUDENT AND FAMILY SERVICES

**15444 Regalado St.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

(626) 933-4335

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

WHAT IS SARB?

The School Attendance Review Board is a multi-agency which serves the children, youth, and their families to assist them in solving attendance and/or behavioral problems.

Established in 1976 by the California Legislature, SARB includes the following agencies:

- ◆ District Attorney's Office
- ◆ Child Welfare and Attendance Personnel of Hacienda La Puente Unified School District
- ◆ Parent and/or Community Representatives
- ◆ Children and Family Services
- ◆ Probation and/or Law Enforcement
- ◆ Social Service and/or Mental Health Professionals

SARB is specifically charged with finding solutions to unresolved student attendance and discipline problems by seeking to understand why students are experiencing attendance and/or behavior problems, and recommending appropriate interventions and community resources.

WHO IS REFERRED TO SARB?

Students with chronic attendance problems and/or chronic behavior problems that have not been resolved through school efforts.

HOW DOES SARB WORK?

SARB process begins with the identification of attendance and/or behavior problems followed by classroom, school site, and district level interventions.

Once the referral is submitted to the SARB, the student and parents/legal guardians are scheduled to attend a meeting with the SARB panel. All school-age siblings of the student are also required to attend this meeting. At this meeting, alternatives and recommendations are explored to address the student's attendance and/or behavior difficulty.

This is an opportunity for the student, family, and SARB members to discuss and decide on a workable course of action which is then developed into a contract.

This contract contains all of the recommendation and contingencies by which the student and/or parent must abide. Once signed, the school and the office of the Student and Family Services monitor the student's attendance and/or behavior as it pertains to the signed contract.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER SARB?

If the student's attendance and/or behavior improves to the agreed upon level and the recommendations have been carried through, the function of SARB has been met and no further action will take place. If improvement has not taken place, one or more of the following actions will occur:

- ◆ A petition filed with the juvenile court
- ◆ A complaint filed with the District Attorney
- ◆ Courts may place parent/guardian on informal probation and order miscellaneous fines to be paid

LAWS RELATED TO ATTENDANCE:

- ◆ **Education Code, Section 48200**
Children, between the ages of 6 and 18, are required to attend school full Time, unless otherwise exempted.
- ◆ **Education Code, Section 48292 and Penal Code, Section 272**
Failure to attend school as required may result in the filing of a complain against the parents with the District Attorney's office.