



Board of Education

*Rob Collins
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September 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Regular, punctual attendance directly correlates to academic performance. Good attendance is a shared responsibility between the student and the parent. Simi Valley Unified School District expects parents to send their children to school each day, on time, and to call in all absences to the child's school. Medical appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours or on non-school days, whenever possible.

Compulsory Attendance laws (EC 46010, 48200-48201, 48260-48263) state that parents or legal guardians are compelled to ensure, that their children between the ages of 6-18 are in school regularly and on time each day. Parents/Guardians may be requested to appear before the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) and subsequently be referred to the District Attorney for legal action when attendance and/or tardiness problems occur.

What is "truancy?"

All unexcused absences are classified as "truant." In the past, only un-cleared absences were classified as truant, whereas absences with a note were labeled unexcused. Many parents object to the term "truant", but the State of California does not differentiate between unexcused and "truant". Therefore, all absences for unexcused reasons are "truant." A student can also be considered "truant" if they are more than 30 minutes late to class for unexcused reasons.

What absences can be excused?

Both California and school district policies state that the following absences can be cleared with a phone call from a parent or guardian: student illness, student medical appointment, student attending a funeral for a member of the immediate family, and/or court appearance. Please note that per district regulations (AR 5113), when a student has had 12 absences in a school year for illness, subsequent absences must be verified by a physician.

Can absences for other reasons be excused?

Absences for family emergencies or official college visits (high school juniors & seniors) may be excused ONLY when a parent submits a written request one week PRIOR to the anticipated absence and receives approval from the school.

- Approval will be based on attendance record, academic progress, and reason for absence.
- If this procedure is not followed, the absence will be considered truant.

Can absences for family vacation be excused?

No. Absences for family vacation cannot be excused.

Students are expected to be in school everyday that they are able to do so. Keep your student home if he/she has a fever of over 100 degrees or is vomiting. Help them to differentiate between not feeling like coming to school and being too sick to attend school.

Sincerely,

Andrea Genchi
Program Specialist, Student Support Services