



STUDENTS

BOARD POLICY – CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

BP 5113.1

The County Board of Education believes that absenteeism, whatever the cause, may be an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and may put students at risk of dropping out of school. The County Board desires to ensure that all students attend school in accordance with the state's compulsory education law and take full advantage of educational opportunities provided by the County Office.

The County Superintendent of Schools or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance in order to identify individual students who are chronic absentees and truants, as defined in law and administrative regulation, and to identify patterns of absence throughout County Office schools.

The County Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall consult with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy.

The County Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall develop a tiered approach to reducing chronic absence. Such an approach shall include strategies for preventing attendance problems, which may include, but are not limited to, efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness with the school, school-based health services, letters alerting parents/guardians to the value of regular school attendance, and incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance.

The tiered approach shall also provide for early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance or if they were chronically absent in the prior school year. Early intervention may include personalized outreach, individual attendance plans, and/or mentoring to students with moderate levels of chronic absence, with additional intensive, interagency wrap-around services for students with the highest level of absence.

Students with serious attendance problems shall be provided with interventions specific to their needs, which may include, but are not limited to, health care referrals, transportation assistance, counseling for mental or emotional difficulties, academic supports, efforts to address school or community safety concerns, discussions with the student and parent/guardian about their attitudes regarding schooling, or other strategies to remove identified barriers to school attendance. The County Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee may collaborate with child welfare services, law

enforcement, courts, public health care agencies, other government agencies, and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to make alternative educational programs and support services available for students and families.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff assigned to fulfill attendance-related duties are trained in implementing a trauma-informed approach to chronic absence and receive information about the high correlation between chronic absence and exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

Students who are identified as chronically absent or truant shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation.

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for suspension or expulsion. Alternative strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

The attendance supervisor or designee shall periodically report to the County Board regarding student attendance patterns, including rates of chronic absence and truancy systemwide and for each school, grade level, and numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to develop annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement to be included in the County Office's local control and accountability plan and other applicable County Office plans. As appropriate, the County Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in the determination of how to best allocate available community resources.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the County Superintendent of Schools or designee to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Management Resources

Attendance Works Publication

Attendance Works Publication

California Department of Education
Publication

California Department of Education
Publication

Court Decision

CSBA Publication

Website

Website

Description

The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014

Count Us In! Working Together to Show that Every School Day Matters, 2014

School Attendance Review Board Handbook: A Road Map for Improved School Attendance and Behavior, 2015

School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000

L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976

Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014

[CSBA](#)

[California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System](#)

Website [California Healthy Kids Survey](#)
 Website [California Department of Education](#)
 Website [California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance](#)
 Website [Attendance Works](#)

State	Description
5 CCR 306	Explanation of absence
5 CCR 420-421	Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes
Ed. Code 1740-1742	Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)
Ed. Code 37223	Weekend classes
Ed. Code 46000	Records (attendance)
Ed. Code 46010-46015	Absences
Ed. Code 46110-46120	Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
Ed. Code 46140-46148	Attendance in junior high and high schools
Ed. Code 48200-48208	Children ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)
Ed. Code 48225.5	Work permits, entertainment and allied industries
Ed. Code 48240-48246	Supervisors of attendance
Ed. Code 48260-48273	Truants
Ed. Code 48290-48297	Failure to comply; complaints against parents
Ed. Code 48320-48325	School attendance review boards
Ed. Code 48340-48341	Improvement of student attendance
Ed. Code 48400-48403	Compulsory continuation education
Ed. Code 48900	Suspension and/or expulsion
Ed. Code 49067	Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
Ed. Code 52052	Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
Ed. Code 60901	Chronic absence
Gov. Code 54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act
Pen. Code 270.1	Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor
Pen. Code 272	Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy
Pen. Code 830.1	Peace officers
Veh. Code 13202.7	Driving privileges; minors; suspension or delay for habitual truancy
W&I Code 11253.5	Compulsory school attendance
W&I Code 256-258	Juvenile hearing officer
W&I Code 601-601.5	Habitually truant minors

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD: June 7, 1984
 REVISED: January 6, 1994
 April 7, 1994
 April 3, 1997
 September 2, 2021