

BE THERE

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **Attendance Laws and Procedures**
- **SART** (Student Attendance Review Team)
- **SARB** (School Attendance Review Board)

**EVERY
MINUTE
IN SCHOOL
MATTERS**



Two missed days a month adds up to being a half a year behind by the time your child reaches 4th grade.

And once a child falls behind, they rarely catch up.

PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Help your child stay engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.

RESOURCES

FAMILY RESOURCE COUNCIL

(209) 381-5980

SUPPORTIVE ON-GOING SERVICES (SOS)

A multidisciplinary team that meets twice a month to assist families in problem solving and securing agency resources.

REDIRECT - (209) 381-5980

- Psycho-social education for families affected by delinquent behavior.
- Open to the public at no cost.
- Four sessions, every Wednesday

MERCED COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

(209) 381-6800

POE (Point of Entry) ASSESSMENT APPOINTMENTS

- For Merced, Atwater, Los Banos, and the greater Westside area call (209) 381-6800.
- For Livingston, Delhi and the Northside area call (209) 394-4032.

The CUBE - (209) 381-6800

- Behavioral Health Services
- Serving and inspiring youth ages 16 to 25 emancipating from foster care and/or service agencies at no cost.
- Fostering independence and self-sufficiency.
- Case management by appointment only.
- Daily check ins via telephone, individual zoom meetings and virtual group meetings.
- A welcoming, fun, safe space and place for youth.
- Open Monday to Friday (Call for additional info).

MERCED COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Main Street Center | (209) 385-7590

CHILD ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAM

Treatment and services to child victims of violence, abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and abduction.

HERE TO LEARN

Attendance Engagement Program

MERCED COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

550 W Main Street, Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7383

KIMBERLY R. H. LEWIS
District Attorney

In Partnership with
STEVE M. TIETJEN, ED.D.
County Superintendent of Schools



WHAT ARE SART & SARB MEETINGS?

School Attendance Review Teams (SART) and School Attendance Review Boards (SARB) were established by the California legislature in 1975 for the purpose of:

- Making a better effort to meet the needs of students with attendance and/or behavioral problems.
- Promoting the use of alternatives to the Juvenile Justice system.

HOW ARE STUDENT'S AND THEIR PARENTS REFERRED TO SART OR SARB?

Referrals to SART & SARB are made when school administrators identify students as having chronic attendance problems, truancy problems, or behavior problems which cannot be resolved at the school site level.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A CONFERENCE MEETING/SART?

Conference or SART meetings are informal meetings usually held at your child's school site. The team that meets is typically the school Principal or designee, the parent, and when age appropriate, the child. This small group meets in an attempt to assist parents in correcting the attendance problems in an informal setting. Parent and student are typically placed on a SART Contract at this meeting.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A SARB MEETING?

SARB panels typically include representatives from the student's school site, an administrator from the district office, and may include but are not limited to:

- Representatives from local child welfare services,
- Local law enforcement,
- Community based organizations,
- County Behavioral Health services,
- District Attorney's Office and
- County Probation.

SCHOOL & DISTRICT STAFF ARE HERE TO HELP



School District's do not wish to see parents prosecuted under ANY criminal charges and are legally bound to assist parents, whenever possible, in correcting school attendance problems. The District's Child Welfare & Attendance Office will assist you in making connections with all District and Community resources that might help you to correct your child's attendance and/or behavior problems. For additional resources, see reverse side of flier.

WHAT IS VIOLATION OF CA PENAL CODE 270.1?

California Penal Code 270.1 states, in part, that parents of students who have been absent more than 10 percent of the school year may be prosecuted under misdemeanor criminal charges. If convicted under CA PC 270.1, parents face fines of up to \$2,000 and parents may be sentenced to serve up to one year in county jail.

WHAT IS VIOLATION OF CA PENAL CODE 272?

California Penal Code 272 states, in part, that any person (including a parent) who commits any act or omits the performance of any duty, which causes a minor child to miss excessive amounts of school, can be prosecuted under misdemeanor criminal charges. If convicted of CA PC 272, parents face fines of up to \$2,500 and parents may be sentenced to serve up to one year in county jail.

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



PRESCHOOLERS

Build skills and develop good habits for showing up on time



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS

Stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS

Earn their degrees



WORKERS

Succeed in their jobs

FACTS RELATED TO ATTENDANCE

- We are building leaders of tomorrow!
- Parents and guardians strongly influence a child's attendance patterns...make school the priority!
- Children's absence patterns are established as early as kindergarten.
- Children's older siblings frequently set attendance patterns in a family.
- Students who eat breakfast have improved concentration and miss fewer days of school.