

Policy 5113.1 Chronic Absence and Truancy

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/1999

Last Revised Date: 08/28/2024

The Governing Board 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 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 district.

The Superintendent 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 the district.

The 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 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 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 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 Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding student attendance patterns in the district, including rates of chronic absence and truancy districtwide 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 district's local control and accountability plan and other applicable school and district plans. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in the determination of how to best allocate available community resources.

11/1999
11/2010
11/2012
05/2011
04/2013
02/13/2018
08/28/2024

Policy Reference Disclaimers

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

State

5 CCR 306
5 CCR 420-421

Ed. Code 1740
Ed. Code 37223
Ed. Code 46000
Ed. Code 46010-46015
Ed. Code 46110-46120
Ed. Code 46140-46148
Ed. Code 48200-48208
Ed. Code 48225.5
Ed. Code 48240-48246
Ed. Code 48260-48273

Description

Explanation of absence
Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes
[Employment of personnel to supervise attendance](#)
[Weekend classes](#)
[Attendance records](#)
[Absences](#)
[Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools](#)
[Attendance in junior high and high schools](#)
[Children ages 6-18; compulsory full-time attendance](#)
[Work permits; entertainment and allied industries](#)
[Supervisors of attendance](#)
[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	Grounds for suspension 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
Management Resources	Description
Attendance Works Publication	District Attendance Tracking Tool
Attendance Works Publication	The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014
Attendance Works Publications	Bringing Attendance Home: Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence, 2015
Attendance Works Publications	School Attendance Tracking Tool
Attendance Works Publications	For School Board Members: Frequently Asked Questions About Chronic Absence
California Department of Education Publication	School Attendance Review Board: A Road Map for Improved School Attendance and Behavior, rev. 2018
Court Decision	L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976
CSBA Publication	Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Healthy Kids Survey
Website	California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System
Website	CSBA
Website	Attendance Works
Website	California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
0400	Comprehensive Plans
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan

0500	Accountability
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
4119.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
4131	Staff Development
4219.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
4319.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
5030	Student Wellness
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance
5112.3	Student Leave Of Absence
5112.3	Student Leave Of Absence
5112.5	Open/Closed Campus
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.11	Attendance Supervision
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.2	Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits
5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5126	Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement
5131	Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.2	Bullying
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5137	Positive School Climate
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.33	Head Lice
5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services
5144	Discipline
5144	Discipline
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications

5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
5147	Dropout Prevention
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6164.5	Student Success Teams
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6172	Gifted And Talented Student Program
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(1)	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(2)	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.4	Education For American Indian Students
6175	Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
6178	Career Technical Education
6178	Career Technical Education
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6179	Supplemental Instruction
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6183	Home And Hospital Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6185	Community Day School
6185	Community Day School