Excused Absences

Subject to any applicable limitation, condition, or other requirement specified in law, a student's absence shall be excused for any of the following purposes:

1. Personal illness, including absence for the benefit of the student's mental or behavioral health (Education Code 48205)

2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)

3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic service or appointment (Education Code 48205)

4. Attendance at funeral services for or grieving the death of a member of the student's immediate family or, as determined by the student's parent/guardian, a person so closely associated with the student as to be considered the student's immediate family (Education Code 48205)

A student may be excused for this reason for up to five days for each incident. (Education Code 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided for by law (Education Code 48205)

6. Illness or medical appointment of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent (Education Code 48205)

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)

a. Attendance or appearance in court

b. Attendance at a funeral service

c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony

d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than one school day each semester

e. Attendance at an employment conference

f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization

8. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code 49701, and has been called to duty for deployment or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48205)

9. Attendance at the student's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen (Education Code 48205)

10. Participation in a cultural ceremony or event which relates to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people (Education Code 48205)

11. When a student's immediate family member or, as determined by the student's parent/guardian, a person so closely associated with the student as to be considered the student's immediate family has died: (Education Code 48205)

a. To access services from a victim services organization or agency

b. To access grief support services

c. To participate in safety planning or take other actions, including, but not limited to, temporary or permanent relocation, to increase the safety of the student, an immediate family member of the student, or a person determined by the student's parent/guardian to be in such close association with the student as to be considered immediate family

   Such absence shall be excused for not more than three days for each incident. (Education Code 48205)

12. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school property as designated by the religious group, church, or denomination (Education Code 46014)

Absence for student participation in religious exercises or instruction shall not be considered an absence

for the purpose of computing average daily attendance if the student attends at least the minimum school day as specified in Administrative Regulation 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days each school month. (Education Code 46014)

For this purpose, student absence shall be excused for a maximum of up to five absences each school year. (Education Code 48225.5)"

13. Participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience (Education Code 48225.5)

A student may be excused for up to five such absences each school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code 48225.5)

14. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances (Education Code 48205, 48260)

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, sibling, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household. (Education Code 48205)

Method of Verification

Student absence to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note. (Education Code 48205)

For other absences, the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation, either in person or by written note, verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

When an absence is planned, the principal or designee shall be notified prior to the date of the absence when possible.

Any of the following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written, digital, or audio message from parent/guardian or parent representative.

2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative.

The employee shall subsequently record the following:

a. Name of student

b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative

c. Name of verifying employee

d. Date(s) of absence

e. Reason for absence

3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated.

The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in item #2 above.

4. Physician's verification.

a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may request a note from the medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.

b. If a student shows a pattern of chronic absenteeism due to illness, district staff may require physician verification of any further student absences.

Parent/Guardian and Student Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Notify parents/guardians of the right to excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their places of worship, or at other suitable places away from school property designated by a religious group, church, or denomination (Education Code 46014, 48980)

2. Notify parents/guardians that a student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time (Education Code 48980)

Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

State Description

48980	Parent/guardian notification
5 CCR 306	Explanation of absence
5 CCR 420-424	Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes
Ed. Code 1740	Employment of personnel to supervise attendance
Ed. Code 37201	School month
Ed. Code 37223	Weekend classes
Ed. Code 41601	Reports of average daily attendance
Ed. Code 42238-42252.1	Apportionments
Ed. Code 46000	Attendance records
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 6-12; compulsory full-time attendance
Ed. Code 48210-48216	Exclusions from attendance
Ed. Code 48240-48246	Supervisors of attendance

Ed. Code 48260-48273	Truants
Ed. Code 48292	Filing complaint against parent
Ed. Code 48320-48324	School attendance review boards
Ed. Code 48340-48341	Improvement of student attendance
Ed. Code 49067	Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
Ed. Code 49701	Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
Elec. Code 12302	Student participation on precinct boards
Fam. Code 6920-6930	Consent by minor for medical treatment
W&I Code 11253.5	Compulsory school attendance; eligibility for aid
W&I Code 601-601.5	Habitually truant minors