

Absences & Excuses

Adopted: 05/11/1967 | **Last Revised:** 08/04/2026 | **Last Reviewed:** 08/04/2026

The Board of Education believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy. Parents/guardians of children aged six (6) to eighteen (18) are mandated to send their children to school unless otherwise provided by law.

Excused Absences

In accordance with law, Board policy and rule, absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons as specified in Education Code 48205, and work in the entertainment or allied industry as permitted pursuant to Education Code 48225.5.

Inasmuch as class participation is an integral part of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during non-school hours.

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

Absences for Religious Purposes

The Board of Education shall allow students to be absent for participation in religious instruction, the observance of a holiday or ceremony of their religion or attendance at religious retreats. Such absences shall be considered excused subject to law and Board rule.

Unexcused Absences

When an unexcused absence occurs, the student and parent/guardian shall be notified and informed of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences. The student and parent/guardian shall have a reasonable opportunity to explain the absence.

If the absence is not verified as excusable within ten (10) days, it shall be recorded as unexcused. The person receiving any explanation of the absence by the parent/guardian shall make a record of this explanation and the date when it was given.

Effect of Absence on Grades/Credits

When a student's absence from school is excused, the student's teacher shall determine identical or reasonably equivalent assignments and tests to those missed during the absence which the student shall be permitted to complete for full credit within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the teacher. A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy.

Parent Notification

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notification to the parents/guardians of all students, and to all students in grades 7-12, informing them that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian.

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 Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:**STATE**CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

5 CCR 306 Explanation of absence

5 CCR 420-424 Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes

EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance

37201 School month

37223 Weekend classes

41601 Reports of average daily attendance

42238-42252.1 Apportionments

46000 Attendance records

46010-46015 Absences

46110-46120 Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools

46140-46148 Attendance in junior high and high schools

48200-48208 Children ages 6-18; compulsory full-time attendance

48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance

48225.5 Work permit; excused absence; entertainment or allied industries; participation in not-for-profit performing arts organization

48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance

48260-48273 Truants

48292 Filing complaint against parent

48320-48324 School attendance review boards

48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance

49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade

49701 Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

ELECTIONS CODE

12302 Student participation on precinct boards

FAMILY CODE

6920-6930 Consent by minor for medical treatment

WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE

11253.5 Compulsory school attendance; eligibility for aid

601-601.5 Habitually truant minors

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES:ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 244 (1983)

87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)

COURT DECISION

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

CSBA PUBLICATION

Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence Data to Drive Student Engagement, March 2024

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES PUBLICATION

Resources for Supporting Student Engagement and Attendance, April 2024

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATION

Action Planner for Reengaging Students to Support Everyday Attendance, May 2024

WEBSITES

Institute for Education Sciences <https://ies.ed.gov/>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

<https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/oese>

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services <https://legalservices.csba.org/>

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