

Students

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

The Governing Board believes that excessive student absenteeism and tardiness, whether caused by excused or unexcused absences, 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.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track and monitor student attendance, including methods to identify students classified as chronic absentees and truants, as defined in law and administrative regulation.

To encourage school attendance, the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention and early intervention of attendance problems. Preventive strategies may include efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, and school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness with the schools. The Superintendent or designee also may provide incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

The Superintendent or designee shall work with students and parents/guardians to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. Based on this needs assessment, he/she shall collaborate with community agencies, including, but not limited to, child welfare services, law enforcement, courts, and/or public health care agencies, to ensure that alternative educational programs and nutrition, health care, and other support services are available for students and families and to intervene as necessary when students have serious attendance problems.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

(cf. 3550 - Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 5145.6 - School Health Services)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

BP 5113.1

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)
 (cf. 6158 - Independent Study)
 (cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
 (cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)
 (cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
 (cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
 (cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)
 (cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)
 (cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)
 (cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)
 (cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)
 (cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)
 (cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

As required by law, habitually truant students shall be referred to a school attendance review board (SARB), a truancy mediation program operated by the county's district attorney or probation officer, and/or a juvenile court.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly analyze data on student absence to identify patterns of absence districtwide and by school, grade level, and student population. Such data shall be used to identify common barriers to attendance, prioritize resources for intervention, and monitor progress over time. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee also shall provide this information to key school staff and community agency partners to engage them in program evaluation and improvement.

Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE**

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)
 37223 Weekend classes
 41601 Reports of average daily attendance
 46000 Records (attendance)
 46010-46014 Absences
 46110-46119 Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
 46140-46147 Attendance in junior high and high schools
 48200-48208 Children ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)
 48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance
 48260-48273 Truants
 48290-48296 Failure to comply; complaints against parents
 48320-48325 School attendance review boards
 48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance
 48400-48403 Compulsory continuation education
 49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
 60901 Chronic absence

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

PENAL CODE

270.1 Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor

272 Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy

830.1 Peace officers

VEHICLE CODE

13202.7 Driving privileges; minors; suspension or delay for habitual truancy

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

601-601.4 Habitually truant minors

11253.5 Compulsory school attendance

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

306 Explanation of absence

420-421 Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Brief, December 2010

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 2009

School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Attendance Counts: <http://www.attendancecounts.org>

California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance: <http://www.cascwa.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy adopted: **March 13, 2012**

FRUITVALE SCHOOL DISTRICT, Bakersfield, CA