

Acceptable Reasons for Excused Students Absences

(46010, 46010.3, 48205 Ed. Code) Student must be given an opportunity to complete work which is reasonably close to, but not necessarily identical to, missed work.

1. Personal illness (school may require doctor's note verifying absence after 10 days).
2. Quarantine under the direction of a health officer.
3. Personal medical, dental, optometric or chiropractic appointment.
4. Funeral services for a member of the immediate family (limited to one day in the state, and three days out of state).
5. Student serving on jury duty.
6. Exclusion for illness or medical appointment of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
7. Personal court appearance (requires verification).
8. Prior Principal approval for employment conference.
9. Employment in the Entertainment Industry for a maximum of up to five absences per school year.
10. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony (recommend three (3) days advance notice to school).

Parent and Student School Attendance Review Board (SARB)



Parents are responsible for a child's attendance from age 6 until age 18.
(48200 Ed. Code)

11. Religious retreat (limited to four hours per semester).
12. Prior Principal approval for reasons, which may not be included elsewhere, but are pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
13. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election
14. For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family who is on active duty in the military.
15. Other reasons that are within the discretion of school administrators, and based on the factors of the pupil's circumstances, are deemed to constitute a valid excuse.
16. For the purpose of attending the pupil's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen.

(46014 Ed. Code) The following require a Board-adopted resolution: Religious observance or exercise for moral or religious instruction limited to four (4 days per month.) Student must attend minimum school day hours.

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Truancies and Unexcused Absences

Reasons NOT acceptable for being absent from school and are considered truancies or unexcused absences during the regular school year.

A truancy occurs if a student does the following:

1. Going to work with parent or other family member.
2. Going to the beach, lake, river, mountains or desert.
3. Going to a concert.
4. Getting ready for a date.
5. Baby-sitting, taking care of other family members.
6. Under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
7. Joyriding or partying.
8. Personal problems.
9. Repairing car or household items.
10. Waiting for service or repair people to arrive.
11. Shopping
12. Camping
13. Attending a sporting event.
14. Any other reason not included in "Acceptable Reason for Excused Student Absences." See other side of the pamphlet.
15. Bus not available/missing bus.
16. Participating in a student demonstration off campus. All absences must be verified or the absence becomes an unexcused absence or truancy.

The SARB Process

AS ESTABLISHED BY LAW:

- **Third (3)** – unexcused absences or tardies over 30 minutes or any combination: Classified as a Truant (reported to attendance administrator). First Letter sent to home.
- **Fifth (5)** – unexcused absences or tardies over 30 minutes or any combination: Second truancy (again reported to attendance administrator). Second Letter sent to home and School Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting or meeting with administrator.
- **Sixth (6)** – unexcused absences or tardies over 30 minutes or any combination: Third truancy (classified as a Habitual Truant) and subject to a summons to appear at a School Attendance Review Board (SARB)).

(48263.6 Ed. Code) Chronic Truant:

Any student absent from school without a valid excuse for more than 10 percent of the school days in one school year from the date of enrollment to the current date.

(48260 Ed. Code) Any pupil subject to full-time education or to compulsory education who is absent from school without valid excuse more than three days or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse or three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance administrator or superintendent of the school district.

(48263 Ed. Code) Students with chronic absences or irregular attendance can be referred to SARB.

The Penalties

(48293 Ed. Code) SARB Hearing – The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) will ask the parent and the student to sign an attendance contract. Failure to comply with the contract will result in the order of a citation to appear in court.

- **First Conviction** – A fine of not more than \$100 plus penalties could amount to as much as \$375.
- **Second Conviction** – A fine of not more than \$320.00 plus penalties could amount to as much as \$750.
- **Third or Subsequent Conviction** – A fine of not more than \$500 plus penalties could amount to \$1,500.

(13202.7 Vehicle Code) Any minor under the age of 18 years, but 13 years of age or older who is a habitual truant may have his/her driving privilege suspended for one year.

(272 (a)(7) Penal Code) Failure to enroll your student in an approved educational program could result in a \$2,500 fine + 1 year county jail + probation up to 5 years.

(270.1 Penal Code) Failure to address chronic truancy of students in elementary or middle school could result in a \$2,000 fine + 1 year county jail + probation up to 5 years.

(48200 Ed. Code) Parents are responsible for a child's attendance from the age 6 until age 18.