

Students are considered truant when they are absent without a valid excuse three (3) full days in one school year OR tardy for more than a 30-minute period without a valid excuse three (3) times in one year; OR a combination of both. Students who are habitually absent or tardy are referred by their school site to SARB.

### **What is SARB (School Attendance Review Board)?**

SARB was established by the California legislature in 1975. Its main purpose is to serve as a vehicle to correct chronic truancy problems.

Within the Fullerton School District, the SARB process starts with the identification of attendance and/or behavior problems followed by classroom, school site and District level interventions. The SARB panel is composed of District personnel and representation from different agencies (Fullerton Police Department, OC Probation Department, OC Social Services) that bring their experience to the hearing and find solutions to unresolved student attendance and discipline problems.

### **What does SARB do for students?**

- Helps the student and parent understand the importance of attendance and the consequences of failing to comply with the law
- May direct the student and/or family to counseling
- Can offer parenting classes
- Possible facilitation of a student transfer to an alternative school or program when necessary
- May request assistance from other county agencies, as needed
- Recommends the establishment of needed resources
- Refers chronic attendance to the District Attorney
- Truancy Mediation Office for further assistance

Parents are LEGALLY responsible for their child's attendance. Failure to comply with SARB is an infraction (ED Code 48293) and the parent may be fined. Parents may be required to appear at a hearing before a district justice or officer of the

court and ordered to attend education and counseling programs.

If parents fail to comply, they may be found in contempt of court and/or charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. In some extreme cases, parents could be jailed.

### **How parents can help students stay in school?**

- Make sure your child is in school EVERY day and ON TIME.
- Make education a family priority.
- Get involved in your child's educational progress.
- Emphasize the important role of education to succeed in life.

**If you have any additional questions about attendance, attendance laws, or the SARB process, please feel free to contact Child Welfare and Attendance at (714) 447-7529.**



**HELP YOUR CHILD BE  
SUCCESSFUL BY BEING  
IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY  
AND  
ON TIME!**

**ATTENDANCE GOAL OF  
98%**



Good attendance helps children do well in school and eventually in the workplace.

Attendance matters for school success, starting as early as prekindergarten and throughout elementary school and beyond.

Developing the habit of attendance prepares students for success on the job and in life.

Excused and unexcused absences easily add up to too much lost learning time in the classroom.

Improving attendance ensures that students are on-track to learn and succeed.

Chronic absenteeism is a leading, early warning indicator of academic trouble but is a problem that can be solved by improving attendance.

September is Attendance Awareness Month, a nationwide campaign to reduce chronic absenteeism.

#### **Do you know the Compulsory Attendance Laws?**

**Education Code 48200:** Students between the ages of 6 and 18 are required to attend school full time, unless otherwise exempt.

**Education Code 48260:** Any student who is absent without valid excuse 3 full days in one school year or Tardy for more than a 30 minute period without a valid excuse OR a combination of both is considered a TRUANT.

**Education Code 48263:** Habitually truant students may be referred to SARB (School Attendance Review Board).

**Education Code 48293:** Failure to comply with SARB is an infraction and the parent may be fined up to \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> violation is \$1,000, 3<sup>rd</sup> violation is \$2,000.

**Penal Code 270.1:** if parents allow their children in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade to miss 10% or more of the school year; they can be prosecuted for a misdemeanor with up to one year in jail and \$2,000 in fines.

#### **What is an Excused Absence?**

Per Ed Code 48205, a student absent for any of the following reasons is considered “excused” in compliance with the Compulsory Attendance Law:

1. Personal illness
2. Quarantine under the directions of a health professional
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. Personal court appearance (requires verification)
6. Employment in the entertainment industry for a maximum of up to 5 absences per school year
7. Personal reasons, which include, observance of a religious holiday or ceremony, attendance at a religious retreat not to exceed 4 hrs. per semester. Attendance at an employment conference when the student’s absence has been requested in writing by the parent/guardian and approved by the principal at the school site
8. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code
9. For the purpose of spending time with a member of the pupil’s immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Section 49701, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support position. Absences granted pursuant to this paragraph shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the superintendent of the school district
10. Head Lice: a student who is absent because of head lice is counted as

“excused” only for 3 days. Any subsequent day(s) after day 3 will be marked as Unexcused

#### **What are Unexcused Absences?**

Any absence for reasons other than those listed under Excused Absences are deemed unexcused.

The following are examples of unexcused absences:

1. Family vacation during school calendar
2. Babysitting younger siblings or taking care of other family members
3. Personal problems or family emergency
4. Funeral service of a non-immediate family
5. Missed bus, no transportation, and car trouble
6. Audition call back
7. Forgot school schedule change
8. Didn’t know there was school or student told parent there was no school
9. Had to go with parent to DMV, court, passport renewal, etc. because there was no one else to bring student to school or pick him up from school
10. Sibling or other family member is sick or has a medical appointment

#### **Did you know about Partial Day Absence including Tardy & Early Removal from School?**

Compulsory attendance law and policy require school districts to record every tardy of less than 30 minutes or more than 30 minutes and any early removal from school, including, but not limited to, those regarding personal medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments. This record is listed in the attendance log for the student. If a student leaves early, his/her attendance log will be coded appropriately indicating whether it was excused or unexcused. This is also true regarding tardiness to school. Habitual tardiness or early removal from school that is unexcused may result in interventions by the school site or District Office to improve this behavior.