

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT

More than ever before, consistent school attendance is critical to school success. With more rigorous academic standards to meet for graduation, every minute of class instructional time is essential for students to reach their goals and achieve their dreams. Poor school attendance can quickly influence a student's ability to be successful in school. Research shows that when students are not in school, they can be at risk of becoming victims of crime, to use drugs, and alcohol and to drop out of school.

The Tulare City School District is committed to ensuring that students attend school every day, on time. By forging vital partnerships with the Tulare County Office of Education, the Tulare Police Department, the Tulare County District Attorney's Office and the Tulare County courts, we assist students and their families to attain that most treasured goal—an excellent education.

Clare Gist

Clare Gist, Ed.D
Superintendent, Tulare City
School District

ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR EXCUSED STUDENT ABSENCES

(CA Ed Code's 46010, 46010.5 & 48205)

- Personal illness (school may require a doctor's note and will require doctor's verification after 15 days of absence pursuant to School Board policy.)
- Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer
- Personal medical, dental, optometric, chiropractic or mental health provider appointment. (Parent is encouraged to provide a note from the health provider upon return of the child to school.)
- Funeral services of parent, sibling, grandparent, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or any relative living in the immediate household of the child (Limited to one day in the state, and three days out of the state.)
- For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of the child's religion, attendance at a religious retreat, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
- 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 4901, 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.

If your child must be absent from school, for more than 5 days, due to a surgery, chronic illness or family emergency, please notify your school principal at least three days prior to the pending absences, to discuss a possible Short-Term Independent Study placement.



TULARE CITY
School District

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S CHILD WELFARE & ATTENDANCE OFFICE.

Debbie Terry, Supervisor 559-685-7222
Anneke Cordorniz, CWA Clerk 559-685-7222

Child Welfare & Attendance Liaisons 559-685-7390
Cindy Burlison
Marisol Adame
Juana Sepulveda



TULARE CITY
School District



TRUANCY AND POOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR LOCAL

SARB

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

**EVERY
MINUTE
IN SCHOOL
MATTERS**

Two missed days a month adds up to being a half a year behind by the time your child reaches 4th grade.

And once a child falls behind, they rarely catch up.

What are SART & SARB?

SART or School Attendance Review Team and SARB or School Attendance Review Board were established by the California legislature in 1975 for the purpose of:

- * Making a better effort to meet the needs of students with attendance and behavior problems.
- * Promoting the use of alternatives to the Juvenile Justice system.

How are student's and their parents referred to SART or SARB?

Referrals to SART & SARB are made when school administrators identify students as having chronic attendance problems, truancy problems, or behavior problems which cannot be resolved at the school site level.

What happens at SART?

SART meetings are informal meetings usually held at your child's school site. The team that meets is typically the school Principal or Designee, the District's Supervisor of Child Welfare & Attendance, the parent(s) and, when age appropriate, the child. This small group meets in an attempt to assist parents in correcting the attendance problems in an informal setting. Parent and student are typically placed on a SART Contract at this meeting.

What happens at SARB?

SARB panels typically include representatives from your child's school site, an administrator from the district office, and may include but are not limited to; representatives from local child welfare services, local law enforcement, community based organizations, county mental health services, District Attorney's office and county probation. SARB Hearings are typically held at the District Office and are more formal meetings than a SART meeting. The panel will review the attendance and/or behavior problems that resulted in the referral, hear from the school site, parent and child if age appropriate. Parents are placed on a SARB Contract that explains attendance and behavior laws and what will be expected from the parent and child from that point forward.

What happens after SART and/or SARB?

After a student and his or her parents have been placed on a SART or SARB Contract, the student's school will monitor the student to insure they comply with the conditions of the contract. If the student continues to have attendance or behavior problems and their parents are not compliant with the SARB directives, their case may be referred to the Tulare County District Attorney's Office for prosecution. The DA's Office may legally file charges against a parent under California Education Code 48293, California Penal Code 270.1 or California Penal Code 272.

What is Violation of CA Education Code 48393?

California Education Code 48293 states, in part, that parents who fail to comply with the directives given by a SARB or SART may be prosecuted under infraction charges. If convicted under CA EC 48293, parents face fines of up to \$500 per parent for each child involved in the case.

What is Violation of CA Penal Code 270.1?

California Penal Code 270.1 states, in part, that parents of students who have been absent more than 10 percent of the school year may be prosecuted under misdemeanor criminal charges. If convicted under CA PC 270.1, parents face fines of up to \$2,000 per parent, for each child involved in the case and parents may be sentenced to serve up to one year in County jail.



What is Violation of CA Penal Code 272?

California Penal Code 272 states, in part, that any person (including a parent) who commits any act or omits the performance of any duty, which causes a minor child to miss excessive amounts of school, can be prosecuted under misdemeanor criminal charges. If convicted of CA PC 272, parents face fines of up to \$2,500 per parent, for each child involved in the case, AND parents may be sentenced to serve up to one year in County jail.

School and District Staff Are Here to Help

School District's do not wish to see parents prosecuted under ANY criminal charges and are legally bound to assist parents, whenever possible, in correcting school attendance problems. The District's Child Welfare & Attendance Office will assist you in making connections with all District and Community resources that might help you to correct your child's attendance and/or behavior problems.



FACTS RELATED TO POOR ATTENDANCE

- Parents and guardians strongly influence a child's attendance patterns.
- Children's absence patterns are established as early as kindergarten.
- Children's older siblings frequently set attendance patterns in a family.
- Children are absent more frequently on Mondays and Fridays.
- Children stay home more often on rainy days, bad weather, and the day after a school holiday.
- Children who do not eat breakfast are absent more than children who do.
- Children who are excessively absent suffer losses in educational achievement that are sometimes not recognized until several grades later.
- Children who are excessively absent perform poorly on tests and are at a much greater risk of dropping out.
- Children who are truant commit the majority of daytime burglaries and may become involved in delinquent behavior.

>95%
ATTENDANCE
IS REGARDED AS THE
MINIMUM
★ ACCEPTABLE LEVEL ★