

Students

## **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in student achievement. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children ages six to eighteen are obligated to send their children to school full-time unless otherwise provided by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy. Attendance at all schools and classes shall be recorded and kept in accordance with law and regulations of the State Board of Education.

### **Excused Absences**

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations.

Insofar as class participation is an integral parts of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during nonschool hours. When this is not possible, parents are requested to vary the appointment time so the student does not continually miss instruction at the same time of day.

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students and to all students in grades 7 through 12 informing them that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of student's parent/guardian.

Students in grades K-6 should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Students in grades 7-12 should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency or confidential medical appointment.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property shall be considered excused subject to administrative regulations and law.

### **Unexcused Absences/Truancy**

Truancy may be the result of either unexcused absences or tardiness or a combination of both.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement positive steps to reduce truancy, such as communication with parents/guardians and the use of student study teams.

The district participates in the county school attendance review board as allowed by law in order to meet the special needs of students with school attendance or school behavior problems.

Students who are habitual truants or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be referred to the school attendance review board or the county probation department.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, a student who has been classified as truant may be referred to the district attorney or probation officer for truancy mediation.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, the school attendance review board or probation officer may ask the County Superintendent of Schools to request a juvenile court petition on behalf of the student.

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy.

Legal Reference: Education Code

- 1740 ..... Employment of personnel to supervise attendance
- 41601 ..... Reports of average daily attendance
- 42238.8 ..... Request for one-time base revenue limit adjustment
- 46000 ..... Records (attendance)
- 46010-46014.. Absences
- 46100-46116.. Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
- 46140-46147.. Attendance in junior high and high schools
- 48200            Children between ages of 6 and 18 years (compulsory full time attendance)
- 48205 ..... Absence for justifiable personal reasons
- 48240-48246.. Supervisors of attendance
- 48260-48273.. Truants
- 48320-48324.. School Attendance Review Boards
- 48340-48341.. Improvement of pupil attendance
- 49067 ..... Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade