

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 6 to 18 are obligated to send their children to school 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.

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.

Inasmuch as class participation is an integral part of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during nonschool hours.

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students, and to all students in grades 7-8, informing them that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian.

Students in grades K-6 shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Students in grades 7-8 shall 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 may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulations.

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

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 *Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)*

2550-2558.6 *Computation of revenue limits*

37201 *School month*

37223 *Weekend classes*

41601 *Reports of average daily attendance*

42238-42250.1 *Apportionments*

46000 *Records (attendance)*

46010-46014 *Absences*

46100-46119 *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)*

48210-48216 *Exclusions from attendance*

48240-48246 *Supervisors of attendance*

48260-48273 *Truants*

48292 *Filing complaint against parent*

48320-48324 *School attendance review boards*

48340-48341 *Improvement of student attendance*

49067 *Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade*

ELECTIONS CODE

12302 *Student participation on precinct boards*

FAMILY CODE

6920-6929 *Consent by minor*

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*

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

66 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 245, 249 (1983)*

COURT DECISIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES

0114.98 *School Attendance and CalWORKS, Management Bulletin 98-01*

CSBA ADVISORIES

0520.97 *Welfare Reform and Requirements for School Attendance*

WEB SITES

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