

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.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5113.1 - 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. (Education Code 46010, 48205, 48216)

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.

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

At the beginning of each academic year, the following notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students, and to all students in grades 7 through 12: "Ed Code 46010.1 states that authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian. However, it is the policy of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District that students shall not be released from school without their parents'/guardians' knowledge or consent except in the case of medical emergency."

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulations. (Education Code 46014)

Unexcused Absences/Truancy

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

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The District endorses the use of a 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 County Truancy Court.

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.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

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>