

Fullerton School District

Board Policy

Students

BP 5113.1

Truancy

Board Adopted: June 10, 2005

Board Revised: July 28, 2015

The Board of Trustees believes that excessive absenteeism, whether caused by excused or unexcused absences, may be an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and may put students at risk of dropping out of school. The Board desires to ensure that all students attend school in accordance with the State's compulsory education law and take full advantage of educational opportunities provided by the District.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance in order to identify individual students who are chronic absentees and truants, as defined in law and administrative regulation, and to identify patterns of absence throughout the District. He/She shall provide the Board with data on school attendance as defined in Education Code 52052. Such data shall be used in the development of annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement and for inclusion in the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan and other applicable school and District plans.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention of attendance problems, which may include, but are not limited to, efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness with the school, school-based health services, and incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance. The Superintendent or designee also shall develop strategies that enable early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance.

The Superintendent or designee shall work with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. He/She also may collaborate with child welfare services, law enforcement, courts public health care agencies, other government agencies, and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to ensure that alternative educational programs and nutrition, health care, and other support services are available for students and families and to intervene as necessary when students have serious attendance problems.

Students who are identified as truants shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation.

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for his/her out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Alternative disciplinary strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the District's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to make changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in identification of how to best allocate available community resources.

In accordance with law and administrative regulation, habitual truants may be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

The Board, with help from the Superintendent or designee, shall appoint members of the District's SARB, who may include, but are not limited to, a parent/guardian as well as representatives of the District; County probation department; County welfare department; County office of education; law enforcement agencies; community-based youth service centers; school guidance personnel; child welfare and attendance personnel; school or county health care personnel, school, county, or community mental health personnel; the county district attorney's office; and the county public defender's office. (Education Code 48321)

The District's SARB shall operate in accordance with Education Code 48320-48325 and procedures established by the Superintendent or designee.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)
37223 Weekend classes
41601 Reports of average daily attendance
46000 Records (attendance)
46010-46014 Absences
46110-46119 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)
48225.5 Work permits, entertainment and allied industries
48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance
48260-48273 Truants
48290-48296 Failure to comply; complaints against parents
48320-48325 School attendance review boards
48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance
48900 Suspension and expulsion
49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
52052 Academic Performance Index; numerically significant student subgroups
60901 Chronic absence

GOVERNMENT CODE

54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act

PENAL CODE

270.1 Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor
272 Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy
830.1 Peace officers

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

256-258 Juvenile hearing officer
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

15497.5 Local control and accountability plan template

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 2015

School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000

WEB SITES

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

Attendance Works: <http://www.attendanceworks.org>

California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance: <http://www.cascwa.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California Healthy Kids Survey: <http://chks.wested.org>

CSBA Revisions

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