

Students

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education (Board) believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)
(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48205)

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

Inasmuch as school attendance and class participation are integral to students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical and other appointments during non-school hours.

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

The Board shall, by resolution entered into its minutes, approve reasonable methods that may be used to verify student absences due to illness or quarantine. (5 CCR 421)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 1740 *Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)*
- 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*
- 48225.5 *Work permit; excused absence; entertainment or allied industries*
- 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*
- 48980 *Parental notifications*
- 49067 *Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade*
- 49701 *Provisions of the interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children*

ELECTIONS CODE

- 12302 *Student participation on precinct boards*

FAMILY CODE

- 6920-6929 *Consent by minor for medical treatment*

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

- 87 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)*
- 66 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 244 (1983)*

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

- Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Brief, December 2010*

WEB SITES

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