

## **STUDENTS**

### **Absences and Excuses**

The Board of Trustees 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 aged six (6) to eighteen (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 administrative regulations. Student absence for justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to, appearance in court, observation of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours during a semester are considered excused by the district. Insofar as class participation is an integral part of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during non-school hours.

### **Notification of Absences and Excuses Policy Concerning Confidentiality**

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students in grades 7 and 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, according to Education Code Section 46010.1.

### **Notification of Absences and Excuses Policy Concerning Religious Purposes**

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to parents or guardians of all K-8 students informing them of the district policy regarding excuses and absences for religious purposes.

### **Unexcused Absences/Truancy**

The Superintendent or designee shall implement whatever steps are deemed appropriate to keep students in school, including communication with parents/guardians, and the use of attendance review boards and/or student study teams.

The district has 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. 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.

Legal Reference:	EDUCATION CODE
	46000 Records (attendance)
	46010-46015 Absences
	46100-46119 Attendance in Kindergarten and Elementary Schools
	46140-46147 Attendance in Junior High & 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
	48292 Filing Complaint Against Parent
	48320-48324 School Attendance Review Boards
	48340-48341 Improvement of Pupil Attendance
	WELFARE CODES
	601-601.4 Habitually Truant Minors
	CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
	306 Explanation of Absence
	420-421 Record of Verification of Absences Due to Illness and Other Causes

Policy Adopted: June 16, 1998