

Santa Barbara Unified School District

Board Policy

Students

BP 5113

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Governing 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)

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. (Education Code 48205)

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 school year, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notification to the parents/guardians of all students, and to all students in grades 7-12, 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. (Education Code 46010.1)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Students 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. (Education Code 46014)

Effect of Absence on Grades/Credits

If a student's absence is excused under Education Code 48205, he/she shall be allowed to complete any missed assignment or test that can be reasonably given, as determined by the teacher of that class. The student shall be given full credit for the assignment or test if he/she satisfactorily completes the assignment or test within a reasonable period of time. (Education Code 48205)

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:

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*
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*

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>

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara, California November 25, 2008; April 24, 2012