

**CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY**

The Governing Board believes that excessive student absenteeism and tardiness, 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.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance in order to identify individual students and patterns of absence for students classified as chronic absentees and truants throughout the district, as defined in law and administrative regulation. He/she shall provide the Board with data on school attendance, chronic absence, and truancy rates for all district students, for each school, and for each numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such data shall be disaggregated and 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.

*(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)*

*(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)*

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

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.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)*

*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*

*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*

*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*

*(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)*

*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

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

## **CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (Continued)**

healthcare 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.

*(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)*  
*(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)*  
*(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)*  
*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*  
*(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)*  
*(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)*

*(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)*  
*(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)*  
*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*  
*(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)*  
*(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)*  
*(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)*  
*(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)*  
*(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)*

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 sole basis for his/her out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Alternative disciplinary strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

*(cf. 5144 – Discipline)*  
*(cf. 5144.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly analyze data on student absence to identify patterns of absence districtwide and by school, grade level, and student population. Such data shall be used to identify common barriers to attendance, prioritize resources for intervention, and monitor progress over time. The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report this information to the Board for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and making changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee also shall provide this information to key school staff and community agency partners to engage them in program evaluation and improvement and in identification of how to best allocate available community resources.

**CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (Continued)****School Attendance Review Board**

In accordance with law and administrative regulation, habitual truants may be referred to a school attendance review board (SARB).

The Board may submit a nomination to the County Superintendent of Schools for a person who will serve on the county SARB as a representative of school districts. (Education Code 48321)

The Board shall appoint members of the district's SARB, who may include, but are not be 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, and school or county health care personnel, and school, county, or community mental health personnel. (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 Reference:**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**48400-48403 Compulsory continuation education**48900 Suspension and expulsion**49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade**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**VEHICLE CODE**13202.7 Driving privileges; minors; suspension or delay for habitual truancy**WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE*

**CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (Continued)**

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*  
*COURT DECISIONS*  
*L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, (2012) 209 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 976*

*Management Resources:*

*CSBA PUBLICATIONS*

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

*CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS*

*School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 2012*

*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>*

*California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System: <http://www.cal-schls.wested.org>*

*On TrackCA: <http://www.ontrackca.org>*

Policy

**VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Vacaville, California

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