

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Board of Education 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 to 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.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)
(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

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 administration regulations. (Education Code 46010, 48205, 48216)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

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.

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students and to all students in grades 7 through 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 in grades K-6 should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Students in grades 7-12 should 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 administrative regulations and law. (Education Code 46014)

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Unexcused Absences / Truancy

The Superintendent or designee shall implement positive steps to reduce truancy, such as communication with parents/guardians and the use of student study teams.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6164.5 - Student Study Teams)
(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

The District participates in the county School Attendance Review Board (SARB) as allowed by law in order to meet the special needs of students with school attendance or school behavior problems.

Students who are habitual truants or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be referred to the county probation department.

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.

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, the school attendance review board or probation officer may ask the County Superintendent of Schools to request a juvenile court petition on behalf of the student.

For purposes of the CalWORKS program, a student shall be determined to be "regularly attending school" until he/she has accrued the number of absences determined by the Orange County Welfare Agency.

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

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 between ages of 6 and 18 years (compulsory full-time attendance)*
- 48216 *Immunizations*
- 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*

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*

COURT DECISIONS

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 66 *Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 245, 249 (1983)*

Management Resources:

CDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES

- 0114.98 *School Attendance and CalWORKS, Management Bulletin 98-01*

CSBA ADVISORIES

- Welfare Reform and Requirements for School Attendance*

Policy

Adopted: September 11, 2000

BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brea, California