

~~Santa Rosa City Schools~~

CSBA Sample

Board Policy

Chronic Absence And Truancy

BP 5113.1

Students

The Governing Board of Education believes that ~~excessive~~ absenteeism, ~~whether caused by excused or unexcused absences whatever the cause~~, 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)

(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance in order to identify individual students who are chronic absentees and truants, as defined in law and administrative regulation, and to identify patterns of absence throughout the district. ~~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, attendance supervisor, or designee shall consult with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy.

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall develop a tiered approach to reducing chronic absence. Such an approach shall include strategies that focus on prevention-

~~effor preventing~~ 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, letters alerting parents/guardians to the value of regular school attendance, 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.~~

The tiered approach shall also provide for early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance or if they were chronically absent in the prior school year. Early intervention may include personalized outreach, individual attendance plans, and/or mentoring to students with moderate levels of chronic absence, with additional intensive, interagency wrap-around services for students with the highest level of absence.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
(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~~Students with serious attendance problems shall be provided with interventions specific to their needs, which may include, but are not limited to, health care referrals, transportation assistance, counseling for mental or emotional difficulties, academic supports, efforts to address school or community safety concerns, discussions with the student and parent/guardian about their attitudes regarding schooling, or other strategies to remove identified barriers to school attendance. The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee may collaborate with child welfare services, law enforcement, courts, public health care agencies, other government agencies, and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to ~~ensure that~~make 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. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)

~~(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)~~

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)
(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(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)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff assigned to fulfill attendance-related duties are trained in implementing a trauma-informed approach to chronic absence and receive information about the high correlation between chronic absence and exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

Students who are identified as ~~truants~~chronically absent or truant shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation.

(cf. 5113.12 - District School Attendance Review Board)

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the 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, attendance supervisor, or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding ~~the district's progress in improving~~ student attendance patterns in the district, including rates for all students of chronic absence and truancy districtwide and for each school, grade level, and numerically significant student population subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to ~~make changes as needed~~ develop annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement to be included in the district's local control and accountability plan and other applicable school and district plans. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement

and in ~~identification~~the determination of how to best allocate available community resources.

(cf. 0500 - Accountability)

(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

~~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 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; school or county health care personnel; school, county, or community mental health personnel; the county district attorney's office; and the county public defender's office. (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-~~1742~~ 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~~48297 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
52052 ~~Academic Performance Index~~Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
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
256-258 Juvenile hearing officer
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
~~15497.5—Local control and accountability plan template~~
COURT DECISIONS
L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976

Management Resources:

~~CSBA PUBLICATIONS~~

~~Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014~~

ATTENDANCE WORKS PUBLICATIONS

~~Count Us In! Working Together to Show that Every School Day Matters, 2014~~

~~District Attendance Tracking Tool~~

~~For School Board Members: Frequently Asked Questions About Chronic Absence~~

~~School Attendance Tracking Tool~~

~~Bringing Attendance Home: Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence, 2015~~

~~The Power of Positive Connections: _Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE:_ Priority
Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014~~

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

~~School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 2015: A Road Map for Improved School
Attendance and Behavior, rev. 2018~~

~~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>

~~Policy SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS~~

~~adopted: April 12, 2017 Santa Rosa, California (4/15 10/17) 10/20~~