

**FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****Students  
ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

The County Superintendent and County Board believe that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The County Superintendent shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy.

In accordance with law and any policies, procedures, or measures implemented by the County Superintendent to promote student attendance and/or minimize student absence, absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, justifiable personal reasons as specified in Education Code 48205, and work in the entertainment or allied industry as permitted pursuant to Education Code 48225.5.

When a student's absence from school is excused, the student's teacher shall determine identical or reasonably equivalent assignments and tests to those missed during the absence which the student shall be permitted to complete for full credit within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the teacher. (Education Code 48205, 48225.5)

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 46014)

Inasmuch as school attendance and class participation are integral to students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical and other appointments during non-school hours.

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

The County Superintendent shall approve reasonable methods that may be used to verify student absences due to illness or quarantine. (5 CCR 421)

Adopted: undated

Amended: 10/15/2020, 04/20/2023, 11/21/2024, 03/19/2026

**Legal Reference**Education Code

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)  
37201 School month  
37223 Weekend classes  
41601 Reports of average daily attendance  
42238-42252.1 Apportionments  
46000 Records (attendance)

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46010-46015 Absences  
46110-46120 Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools  
46140-46148 Attendance in junior high and high schools  
48200-48208 Children ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)  
48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance  
48225.5 Work permit; excused absence; entertainment or allied industries  
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  
48980 Parental notifications  
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

6920-6930 Consent by minor for medical treatment

Welfare and Institutions Code

601-601.5 Habitually truant minors  
11253.5 Compulsory school attendance

Code of Regulations, Title 5

306 Explanation of absence  
420-424 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

Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence Data to Drive Student Engagement, March 2024

Institute for Education Sciences Publication

Resources for Supporting Student Engagement and Attendance, April 2024

U.S. Department of Education Publication

Action Planner for Reengaging Students to Support Everyday Attendance, May 2024

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Websites

Institute for Education Sciences: <https://ies.ed.gov/>

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education:  
<https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/oese>

5113, 09/2025; Doc# 4936-5679-2986, v. 1