

**FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION****Students
CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY**

The County Superintendent and County Board believe that absenteeism, 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 County Superintendent and County Board desire 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 County Superintendent.

The County 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.

The County Superintendent 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 County Superintendent or designee shall develop a tiered approach to reducing chronic absence. Such an approach shall include strategies for 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 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.

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 County Superintendent 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 make alternative educational programs and support services available for students and families.

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

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A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for suspension or expulsion. Alternative strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

The County Superintendent or designee shall periodically analyze information regarding the County Superintendent's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students and for each numerically significant student population. The County Superintendent shall periodically report such information to the County Board. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to develop annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement to be included in the local control and accountability plan and other applicable plans. As appropriate, the County Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in the determination of how to best allocate available community resources.

Adopted: 02/19/1998

Amended: 10/16/2014, 10/15/2020, 04/20/2023

Legal ReferenceEducation Code

1740-1742 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)
37223 Weekend classes
46000 Records (attendance)
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)
48225.5 Work permits, entertainment and allied industries
48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance
48260-48273 Truants
48290-48297 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 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

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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

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

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: A Road Map for Improved School Attendance and Behavior, 2015

School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000

Websites

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://cal-schls.wested.org>