

Davis Joint USD

Board Policy

Chronic Absence And Truancy

BP 5113.1

Students

The Governing Board ~~of Education~~ 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 ~~and monitor~~ student attendance in order, including methods to identify individual students who are classified as 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 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)

~~To encourage school attendance, the~~ Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention ~~and early intervention~~ of attendance problems, which may include, but are not limited to, ~~Preventive strategies may include~~ 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 schools, school-based health incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant communication with parents/guardians, and the use of student study teams. The Superintendent or designee also may provide 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. ~~5126 – Awards of Achievement~~0450 – Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(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, ~~and~~ parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. ~~Based on this needs assessment, h~~He/she also may ~~shall~~ collaborate with ~~community agencies, including, but not limited to,~~ child welfare services, law enforcement, courts, ~~and/or~~ public health care agencies, other government agencies, and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to ~~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 ~~school~~ attendance problems.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(cf. 3550 – Food Service/Child Nutrition Program)
(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)
(cf. 5145.6 – School Health Services)
(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 ~~As required by law, habitually~~ truants shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation including referring the student to the District Attendance Program, a truancy mediation program operated by the district in conjunction with the county’s district attorney and juvenile court.

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)

~~students shall be referred to the District Attendance Program, a truancy mediation program operated by the district in conjunction with the county’s district attorney or probation officer, and/or juvenile court.~~

~~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 regarding the district's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students and for each numerically significant student population. Such information shall ~~be used to for purposes of~~ evaluating the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and ~~to make~~ing changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee ~~also shall engage provide this information to key school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in identification of how to best allocate available community resources and community agency partners to engage them in program evaluation and improvement.~~

School Attendance Review Board (SARB)

The Board shall require the Student Support Services Department to establish a comprehensive attendance program (functioning as a local SARB) to provide assistance-based early interventions to truancy. The program, consistent across the district, includes progressive steps to resolve ongoing attendance issues in partnership with district administrators, school counselors, the Davis Police Department, and the Yolo County District Attorney. (Education Code 48320-48325)

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

52052 Academic Performance Index; 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

The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early

Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014

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

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 2015

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>

OnTrackCA: <http://www.ontrackca.org>

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