

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY**Definitions**

Chronic absentee means a student who is absent for any reason on 10 percent or more of the school days in the school year, when the total number of days the student is absent is divided by the total number of days the student is enrolled and school was actually taught in the regular schools of the district, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays. (Education Code 60901)

Truant means a student who is absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year, or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. (Education Code 48260)

Habitual truant means a student who has been reported as a truant three or more times within the same school year, provided the district has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with the student and the student's parent/guardian after either of the two previous reports. (Education Code 48262, 48264.5)

Chronic truant means a student who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for 10 percent or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, provided the district has met the requirements of Education Code 48260, 48260.5, 48261, 48262, 48263, and 48291. (Education Code 48263.6)

For purposes of classifying a student as a truant, valid excuse includes, but is not limited to, the reasons for which a student shall be excused from school pursuant to Education Code 48205 and 48225.5 and AR 5113 - Absences and Excuses. A valid excuse may include other reasons that are within the discretion of school administrators and, based on the facts of the student's circumstances, are deemed to constitute a valid excuse. (Education Code 48260)

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)
(cf. 5113.2 - Work Permits)

Addressing Chronic Absence

The Superintendent, SARB Coordinator, 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.

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

When a student is identified as a chronic absentee, the principal shall communicate with the student and the student's parents/guardians to determine the reason(s) for the excessive absences, ensure the student and parents/guardians are aware of the adverse consequences of poor attendance, and jointly develop a plan for improving the student's school attendance.

(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)

(cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

The student may be referred to a student success team or school-site attendance review team to assist in evaluating the student's needs and identifying strategies and programs to assist the student. When necessary, the student may be referred to a school attendance review board (SARB) program, a truancy mediation program established by the district attorney or the probation officer, or a comparable program deemed acceptable by the Superintendent or designee, in accordance with Education Code 48263 and item #3 in the section "Addressing Truancy" below.

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(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)

To improve student attendance, the SARB Coordinator shall implement positive steps to identify the reasons for a student's unexcused absences and to help resolve the problems caused by truancy. Such strategies shall focus on early intervention and may include, but not be limited to, communication with parents/guardians and the use of student study teams.

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. A student who is struggling academically may be offered tutoring or other supplemental instruction, extended learning opportunities, and/or alternative educational options as appropriate.

Students who are absent shall be given an opportunity to make up missed assignments or assessments and shall receive full credit for satisfactory completion of the work. Students with excessive absences shall be supported to the extent possible to limit the impact of absences on the student's grades.

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

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work-Based Learning)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools/Programs of Choice)

(cf. 6183 - Home and Hospital Instruction)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

Whenever chronic absenteeism is linked to a health, social-emotional, family, or other nonschool issue, the principal or SARB Coordinator may recommend school or community resources and/or collaborate with community agencies and organizations to address the needs of the student and the student's family.

(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)

Addressing Truancy

The SARB Coordinator, peace officer, probation officer, or school administrator or designee may, as applicable, arrest or assume temporary custody during school hours of any minor student found away from home who is absent from school without a valid excuse. Any person arresting or assuming temporary custody of a minor student shall deliver the student and make reports in accordance with Education Code 48265 and 48266. (Education Code 48264, 48265, 48266)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)
(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Upon receiving a complaint from any person that a parent/guardian has violated the State compulsory education laws contained in Education Code 48200-48341, the principal shall make a full and impartial investigation of all charges. If it appears upon investigation that the parent/guardian has violated these laws, the principal shall refer such parent/guardian to the Oroville City Elementary School District's School Attendance and Review Board (SARB). (Education Code 48290)

When a student has been identified as a truant as defined above, the following steps shall be implemented based on the number of trancies the student has committed:

1. Initial truancy

a. The student shall be reported to the Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee. (Education Code 48260)

b. The student's parent/guardian shall be notified by the most cost-effective method possible, which may include email or a telephone call, that: (Education Code 48260.5)

(1) The student is truant.

(2) The parent/guardian is obligated to compel the student to attend school and, if the parent/guardian fails to meet this obligation, the parent/guardian may be guilty of an infraction of the law and subject to prosecution pursuant to Education Code 48290-48296.

(3) Alternative educational programs are available in the district.

(4) The parent/guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the student's truancy.

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

(5) The student may be subject to arrest or held in temporary custody by a probation officer, a peace officer, a school administrator or designee, or attendance supervisor or designee pursuant to Education Code 48264 if found away from home and absent from school without a valid excuse.

(6) If the student is at least 13 years of age but under age 18, the student may be subject to the suspension, restriction, or delay of driving privilege pursuant to Vehicle Code 13202.7.

(7) It is recommended that the parent/guardian accompany the student to school and attend classes with the student for one day.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

c. The student may be required to attend makeup classes on) one day of a weekend pursuant to Education Code 37223. (Education Code 48264.5)

d. The student and, as appropriate, the student's parent/guardian may be requested to attend a meeting with a school counselor or other school designee to discuss the root causes of the attendance issue and develop a joint plan to improve the student's attendance. (Education Code 48264.5)

2. Second truancy

a. Any student who has once been reported as a truant shall again be reported to the SARB Coordinator as a truant if the student is absent from school without a valid excuse one or more days or is tardy on one or more days during the school year. (Education Code 48261)

b. The student may be required to attend makeup classes on one day of a weekend pursuant to Education Code 37223. (Education Code 48264.5)

c. The student may be assigned to an after-school or weekend study program within the county. If the student fails to successfully complete this study program, the student shall be subject to item #3 below. (Education Code 48264.5)

d. An appropriate district staff member shall make a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with the student and the student's parent/guardian by communicating with the parent/guardian at least once using the most cost-effective method possible, which may include email or a telephone call. (Education Code 48262)

e. The student may be given a written warning by a peace officer. A record of that warning may be kept at the school for not less than two years or until the student graduates or transfers from the school. If the student transfers, the record may be forwarded to the new school. (Education Code 48264.5)

3. Third truancy (habitual truancy)

a. A student who is habitually truant, a chronic absentee, or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be referred to, and required to attend the Oroville City Elementary School District's SARB program, a truancy mediation program established by the district attorney or the probation officer, or a comparable program deemed acceptable by the SARB Coordinator. (Education Code 48263, 48264.5)

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

(cf. 5113.12 - District School Attendance Review Board)

b. Upon making a referral to SARB, the SARB Coordinator shall provide the student and the student's parent/guardian with documentation of the interventions undertaken at the school. The

SARB Coordinator shall also provide the student and the student's parent/guardian, in writing, the name and address of the SARB date and the reason for the referral. This notice shall indicate that the student and the student's parent/guardian shall be required, along with the principal making the referral, to meet with the SARB to consider a proper disposition of the referral. (Education Code 48263)

c. If the student does not successfully complete the truancy mediation program or other similar program, the student shall be subject to item #4 below. (Education Code 48264.5)

4. Fourth truancy

a. Upon the fourth truancy within the same school year, the student may be referred to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. (Education Code 48264.5; Welfare and Institutions Code 601)

5. Chronic truancy (unexcused absence for 10 percent of school days)

a. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the student's parents/guardians are offered language-accessible support services to address the student's truancy.

b. If a chronically truant student is at least age six years and is in any of grades K-8, the SARB Coordinator or designee shall notify the student's parents/guardians that failure to reasonably supervise and encourage the student's school attendance may result in the parent/guardian being found guilty of a misdemeanor pursuant to Penal Code 270.1.

Records

The SARB Coordinator shall maintain accurate attendance records for students identified as habitual or chronic truants. In addition, the attendance supervisor, designee, and/or the staff persons who have direct contact with the student or parent/guardian shall document all their contacts regarding the student's attendance, including a summary of all conversations and a record of all intervention efforts.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY (continued)

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall gather and transmit to the County Superintendent of Schools the number and types of referrals made to the SARB and of requests for petitions made to the juvenile court. (Education Code 48273) The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding student attendance patterns in the district, including rates of chronic absence and truancy districtwide and for each school, grade level, and numerically significant student 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 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.