

Palermo Union School District

Student Attendance

The academic success of your student is one of the Palermo Union School District's top priorities. Students who attend school regularly feel more connected to their school community, develop positive social skills and are more likely to graduate from high school. When school attendance is a priority, students get better grades, develop healthy life skills and avoid dangerous behavior.

We understand that there may be occasions that require your student to miss school, but please be aware that missing as few as 2 days per month, even when it is an excused absence, can make it difficult for your student to keep up with their peers academically.

Parents are responsible for their child's mandatory attendance in school from the age of 6 until the age of 18 (Education Code 48200). If your child is absent for any reason, you are required to contact the school attendance office.

Excused Absences

- Personal Illness
- Quarantine under the direction of a health officer
- Personal medical or dental appointments
- Funeral services for a member of the pupil's immediate family
- Personal court appearance
- Observance of religious holiday or ceremony
- Religious Retreat (limited to 4 hours/semester)
- Spending time with a member of the pupil's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the military service
- Other reasons that are within the discretion of school administrators, and, based on the factors of the pupil's circumstances are deemed to constitute a valid excuse

Unexcused Absences

- Family trips or vacations
- Going to work with a parent or family member
- Baby sitting
- Missing the bus
- Any other reason not listed above under Excused Absences

Truancy

- Students are identified as Truant when they have 3 unexcused absences. A truancy letter will be sent home.
- Students will receive a 2nd truancy letter after the 4th unexcused absence. This information will be reported to the Butte County Office of Education and a meeting with the site principal is required.
- After the 5th unexcused absence, the student is identified as a Habitual Truant. A 3rd truancy letter will be issued and parents will be required to meet with the site principal to complete and sign an Attendance Contract.
- Additional unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the School Attendance Review Board.

Chronic Truancy

Any student absent from school without a valid excuse for more than 10 percent of the school days in one school year from the date of enrollment to the current date is identified as a Chronic Truant.

- Students who are chronically truant and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be summoned to attend a meeting of the School Attendance Review Board (SARB)
- A SARB Attendance Contract will be developed
- Failure to comply with the Attendance Contract will result in the order of a citation to appear in court (Education Code 48293).

Penalties for Chronic Truancy

- 1st offense: A fine of not more than \$100 plus penalties; this could amount to as much as \$375.
- 2nd offense: A fine of not more than \$320 plus penalties; this could amount to as much as \$750.
- 3rd offense: A fine of not more than \$500 plus penalties; this could amount to as much as \$1500.
- Any minor under the age of 18, but at least 13 years of age or older who is a habitual truant may have his/her driving privilege suspended for one year.
- Failure to enroll your student in an approved educational program could result in a \$2500 fine plus 1 year in county jail plus probation up to 5 years.