

## Board Policy 5113 (a)

### Students

#### ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Board of Education believes that regular school attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 6 to 18 are obligated to send their children to school unless otherwise provided by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

It is important to note that school districts in California are funded based on actual daily attendance. Excused absences are no longer factored into the funding base, but are important in terms of student academic progress and citizenship marks. Absence from school shall be excused for school site purposes only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Inasmuch as class participation is an integral part of students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical appointments during non-school hours.

At the beginning of each school year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all district students informing them that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 46010.1)

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency or confidential medical appointment.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulations.

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulations.

#### *Legal Reference*

#### **EDUCATION CODE**

*1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance*

*2550-2558.6 Computation of revenue limits*

*37201 School month*

*37223 Weekend classes*

*41601 Reports of average daily attendance*

*42238-42250.1 Apportionments*

*46000 Records*

*46010-46014 Absences*

*46140-46147 Absences in junior high and high schools*

*48200-48208 Children age 6 to 18, compulsory attendance*

*48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance*

*48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance*

## Board Policy 5113 (b)

48260-48276 Truants

48292 Filing complaint against parent

48320-48341 School attendance review boards

48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance

49067 Unexcused absence as cause of failing grade

### **FAMILY CODE**

6920-6929 Consent by minor

### **VEHICLE CODE**

13202.7 Driving privileges; minors; suspension or delay for habitual truancy

### **WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE**

601-601.4 Habitually truant minors

11253.5 Compulsory school attendance

### **CODE OF REGULATIONS**

306 Explanation of absence

420-421 Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes

### **ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS**

66 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 245,249 (1983)

### **COURT DECISIONS**

*American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al* (1997) 16 Ca.4<sup>th</sup> 307

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WEST SONOMA COUNTY UHSD  
Sebastopol, California