

Policy 5113.1: Chronic Absence And Truancy

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 11/01/2012 | **Last Revised Date:** 12/01/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/01/2024

The Governing Board believes 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 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, and that students who are identified as chronically absent or truant receive appropriate support services and interventions as early as possible.

The 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 throughout the district.

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall consult with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy, including in relation to grade level and student subgroup patterns of chronic absence and truancy.

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, 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, including personalized relationships between students and teachers and/or support staff; school-based health services; letters alerting parents/guardians to the value of regular school attendance, including the use of bilingual aides and communication in the primary language used by parents/guardians; 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, including trauma-informed practices, 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 Superintendent, attendance supervisor, 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.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff assigned to fulfill attendance-related duties are trained in implementing a trauma-informed approach to chronic absence and receive information about the high correlation between chronic absence and exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

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

To provide students with an opportunity to make up lost instructional time and offset absences, the Superintendent or designee may implement an attendance recovery program for students in grades transitional kindergarten-12. Any such attendance recovery program shall be operated in accordance with Education Code 46211 and as specified in the accompanying administrative regulation.

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 Superintendent, attendance supervisor, 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. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in the determination of how to best allocate available community resources.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 306	Explanation of absence
5 CCR 420-424	Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes
Ed. Code 1740	Employment of personnel to supervise attendance
Ed. Code 37223	Weekend classes
Ed. Code 44266	Pupil Personnel Services credential
Ed. Code 46000	Attendance records

Ed. Code 46010-46015

Ed. Code 46110-46120

Ed. Code 46140-46148

Ed. Code 46210-46211

Ed. Code 48200-48208

Ed. Code 48225.5

Ed. Code 48240-48246

Ed. Code 48260-48273

Ed. Code 48290-48297

Ed. Code 48320-48325

Ed. Code 48326

Ed. Code 48340-48341

Ed. Code 48400-48403

Ed. Code 48900

Ed. Code 49067

Ed. Code 52052

Ed. Code 60901

Gov. Code 54950-54963

Pen. Code 270.1

Pen. Code 272

Pen. Code 830.1

W&I Code 11253.5

W&I Code 256-258

W&I Code 601-601.5

Management Resources

Attendance Works Publication

Attendance Works Publication

Absences

Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools

Attendance in junior high and high schools

Attendance recovery programs

Children ages 6-18; compulsory full-time attendance

Work permits; entertainment and allied industries

Supervisors of attendance

Truants

Failure to comply; complaints against parents

School attendance review boards

Absence intervention teams

Improvement of student attendance

Compulsory continuation education

Grounds for suspension or expulsion

Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade

Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups

Chronic absence

The Ralph M. Brown Act

Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor

Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy

Peace officers

Compulsory school attendance; eligibility for aid

Juvenile hearing officer

Habitually truant minors

Description

District Attendance Tracking Tool

The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014

Attendance Works Publications	Bringing Attendance Home: Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence, 2015
Attendance Works Publications	School Attendance Tracking Tool
Attendance Works Publications	For School Board Members: Frequently Asked Questions About Chronic Absence
California Department of Education Publication	School Attendance Improvement Strategies
California Department of Education Publication	School Attendance Review Boards Handbook & Forms
Court Decision	L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976
CSBA Publication	Research supported strategies to improve the accuracy and fairness of grades, July 2016
CSBA Publication	Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence Data to Drive Student Engagement, March 2024
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Healthy Kids Survey
Website	California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System
Website	CSBA
Website	Attendance Works
Website	California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
0400	Comprehensive Plans
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan

0460	<u>Local Control And Accountability Plan</u>
0460	<u>Local Control And Accountability Plan</u>
0500	<u>Accountability</u>
1400	<u>Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools</u>
3515.3	<u>District Police/Security Department</u>
3515.3	<u>District Police/Security Department</u>
4119.41	<u>Employees With Infectious Disease</u>
4131	<u>Staff Development</u>
4219.41	<u>Employees With Infectious Disease</u>
4319.41	<u>Employees With Infectious Disease</u>
5030	<u>Student Wellness</u>
5112.1	<u>Exemptions From Attendance</u>
5112.1	<u>Exemptions From Attendance</u>
5112.3	<u>Student Leave Of Absence</u>
5112.3	<u>Student Leave Of Absence</u>
5112.5	<u>Open/Closed Campus</u>
5113	<u>Absences And Excuses</u>
5113	<u>Absences And Excuses</u>
5113.11	<u>Attendance Supervision</u>
5113.12	<u>District School Attendance Review Board</u>
5113.12	<u>District School Attendance Review Board</u>
5113.2	<u>Work Permits</u>
5113.2	<u>Work Permits</u>
5116.2	<u>Involuntary Student Transfers</u>
5117	<u>Interdistrict Attendance</u>
5117	<u>Interdistrict Attendance</u>
5121	<u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>
5121	<u>Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement</u>
5125	<u>Student Records</u>

5125	<u>Student Records</u>
5126	<u>Awards For Achievement</u>
5126	<u>Awards For Achievement</u>
5131	<u>Conduct</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.2	<u>Bullying</u>
5131.4	<u>Student Disturbances</u>
5131.4	<u>Student Disturbances</u>
5137	<u>Positive School Climate</u>
5141.21	<u>Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions</u>
5141.21	<u>Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.22	<u>Infectious Diseases</u>
5141.33	<u>Head Lice</u>
5141.6	<u>School Health Services</u>
5141.6	<u>School Health Services</u>
5144	<u>Discipline</u>
5144	<u>Discipline</u>
5144.1	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u>
5144.1	<u>Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.3	<u>Nondiscrimination/Harassment</u>
5145.6	<u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>
5145.6-E(1)	<u>Parent/Guardian Notifications</u>
5146	<u>Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students</u>
5147	<u>Dropout Prevention</u>
5148.2	<u>Before/After School Programs</u>
5148.2	<u>Before/After School Programs</u>

6020	<u>Parent Involvement</u>
6020	<u>Parent Involvement</u>
6158	<u>Independent Study</u>
6158	<u>Independent Study</u>
6164.2	<u>Guidance/Counseling Services</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(1)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(2)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6173.2	<u>Education Of Children Of Military Families</u>
6173.2	<u>Education Of Children Of Military Families</u>
6173.4	<u>Education For American Indian Students</u>
6175	<u>Migrant Education Program</u>
6175	<u>Migrant Education Program</u>
6176	<u>Weekend/Saturday Classes</u>
6178	<u>Career Technical Education</u>
6178	<u>Career Technical Education</u>
6178.1	<u>Work-Based Learning</u>
6178.1	<u>Work-Based Learning</u>
6179	<u>Supplemental Instruction</u>
6181	<u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u>
6181	<u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u>
6183	<u>Home And Hospital Instruction</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>

6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6185	<u>Community Day School</u>
6185	<u>Community Day School</u>