

## **Students**

### **CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY**

**BP 5113.1**

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.

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*  
*(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)*

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.

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, 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.

*(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*  
*(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)*  
*(cf. 5131 - Conduct)*  
*(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)*  
*(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)*  
*(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)*  
*(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)*

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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. 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.

*(cf. 1400 - Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies and the Schools)*

*(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)*

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

*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*

*(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)*

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.

*(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)*

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

*(cf. 5113.12 - District School Attendance Review Board)*

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for suspension or expulsion. Alternative strategies and positive

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reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

*(cf. 5144 - Discipline)*

*(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)*

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.

*(cf. 0500 - Accountability)*

*(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)*

*(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)*

*(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)*

*(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

1740-1742 - *Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)*

37223 - *Weekend classes*

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*

48290-48297 - *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 - *Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups*

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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

COURT DECISIONS

*L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976*

#### Management Resources:

ATTENDANCE WORKS PUBLICATIONS

*District Attendance Tracking Tool*

*For School Board Members: Frequently Asked Questions About Chronic Absence  
School Attendance Tracking Tool*

*Bringing Attendance Home: Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence,  
2015*

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

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

*School Attendance Review Board: A Road Map for Improved School Attendance  
and Behavior, rev. 2018*

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>

#### Policy

#### PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Pasadena, California

**Revised:** February 25, 2016; January 24, 2019; January 28, 2021