

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in student achievement. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged six 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.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

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

Excused Absences

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations. (Education Code 46010, 46010.5, 48205)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

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

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students and to all students in grades 7 through 12, 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)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Students in grades K-6 should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Students in grades 7-12 should 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 administrative regulations and law. (Education Code 46014)

The Superintendent or designee shall implement positive steps to reduce truancy, such as communication with parents/guardians and the use of student study teams.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Study Teams)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The District participates in the county school attendance review board (SARB) as allowed by law in order to meet the special needs of students with school attendance or school behavior problems.

Students who are habitual truants or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be referred to the county probation department.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, a student who has been classified as truant may be referred to the District attorney or probation officer for truancy mediation.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, the school attendance review board or probation officer may ask the County Superintendent of Schools to request a juvenile court petition on behalf of the student.

For purposes of the CalWORKS program, a student shall be determined to be "regularly attending school" while he/she has been referred by the SARB Committee to the county District Attorney.

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

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

Legal Reference:EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance
(county superintendent)
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 (attendance)
46010-46014 Absences
46100-46119 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)
48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance
48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance
48260-48273 Truants
48292 Filing complaint against parent
48320-48324 School attendance review boards
48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance
49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade

ELECTIONS CODE

12302 Student participation on precinct boards

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, TITLE 5

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 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES

0114.98 School Attendance and CalWORKS, Management
Bulletin 98-01

CSBA ADVISORIES

0520.97 Welfare Reform and Requirements for School
Attendance

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

Policy
adopted: November 20, 1997
Revised: December 10, 1998
Revised: April 14, 2011 (DB)
DELETED: March 14, 2019 (BM)

CASTAIC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Castaic, California

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)
(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48205)

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 46014)

Inasmuch as school attendance and class participation are integral to students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical and other appointments during non-school hours.

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

The Board shall, by resolution entered into its minutes, approve reasonable methods that may be used to verify student absences due to illness or quarantine. (5 CCR 421)

Legal Reference:EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)
37201 School month
37223 Weekend classes
41601 Reports of average daily attendance
42238-42250.1 Apportionments
46000 Records (attendance)
46010-46014 Absences
46100-46119 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)
48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance
48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance
48260-48273 Truants
48292 Filing complaint against parent
48320-48324 School attendance review boards

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance
48980 Parental notifications
49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
49701 Provisions of the interstate compact on educational opportunities
for military children

ELECTIONS CODE

12302 Student participation on precinct boards

FAMILY CODE

6920-6929 Consent by minor for medical treatment

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, TITLE 5

306 Explanation of absence

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)

66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 244 (1983)

COURT DECISIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th
307

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy
Brief, December 2010

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Excused Absences

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointment (Education Code 48205)
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family, which shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)

Immediate family shall be defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister, or any relative living in the student's immediate household. (Education Code 45194, 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)
6. The illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent (Education Code 48205)

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

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)
 - a. Appearance in court
 - b. Attendance at a funeral service
 - c. Observation of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion
 - d. Attendance at religious retreats not to exceed four hours per semester
 - e. Attendance at an employment conference

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

- f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization
- 8. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction in accordance with district policy (Education Code 46014)
 - a. In such instances, the student shall attend at least the minimum school day.
 - b. The student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four days per school month.

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

Method of Verification

When students who have been absent return to school, they must present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having control of the minor, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

- 1. Written note, fax, or email from parent/guardian, parent representative, or student if 18 or older (Education Code 46012)
- 2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
 - a. Name of student
 - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative
 - c. Name of verifying employee
 - d. Date or dates of absence
 - e. Reason for absence
- 3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. A written recording shall be made, including information outlined above.
- 4. Physician's verification

- a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, District staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may contact a medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.
- b. When a student has had 14 absences in the school year for illness verified by methods listed in #1-3 above, any further absences for illness shall be verified by a physician.

Regulation

Approved: November 20, 1997

Revised: December 10, 1998

Revised: July 14, 2011 (DB)

DELETED: March 14, 2019 (BM)

CASTAIC UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Castaic, California

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**Excused Absences**

Subject to any applicable limitation, condition, or other requirement specified in law, a student's absence shall be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointment (Education Code 48205)
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the student's immediate family (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)
6. Illness or medical appointment of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent (Education Code 48205)

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

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)

- a. Appearance in court
- b. Attendance at a funeral service
- c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony
- d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester
- e. Attendance at an employment conference
- f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization

8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302 (Education Code 48205)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

9. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code 49701, and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

10. Attendance at a naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen (Education Code 48205)
11. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school (Education Code 46014)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

Absence for student participation in religious exercises or instruction shall not be considered an absence for the purpose of computing average daily attendance if the student attends at least the minimum school day as specified in AR 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days per school month. (Education Code 46014)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

12. Work in the entertainment or allied industry (Education Code 48225.5)

Such absence shall be excused provided that the student holds a work permit authorizing such work and is absent for a period of not more than five consecutive days and up to five absences per school year. (Education Code 48225.5)

13. Participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience (Education Code 48225.5)

A student may be excused for up to five such absences per school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code 48225.5)

14. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances (Education Code 48205, 48260)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household. (Education Code 48205)

Method of Verification

Student absence to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note. (Education Code 48205)

For other absences, the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

When an absence is planned, the principal or designee shall be notified prior to the date of the absence when possible.

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, fax, email, or voice mail from parent/guardian or parent representative.
2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
 - a. Name of student
 - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative
 - c. Name of verifying employee
 - d. Date(s) of absence
 - e. Reason for absence
3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in item #2 above.
4. Physician's verification.
 - a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may request a note from the medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

- b. If a student shows a pattern of chronic absenteeism due to illness, district staff may require physician verification of any further student absences.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Parental Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Notify parents/guardians of the right to excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their places of worship, or at other suitable places away from school property designated by a religious group, church, or denomination (Education Code 46014, 48980)
2. Notify students in grades 7-12 and the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the district 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)
3. Notify parents/guardians that a student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

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

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

CSBA Sample | BP 5113 Students

Absences And Excuses

Note: The following optional policy may be revised to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Education Code 48200, children ages 6-18 years are subject to compulsory, full-time education, except when otherwise exempted.

Note: Verification of absences is necessary for purposes of enforcement of compulsory education laws and for the determination of whether a student is truant. Pursuant to Education Code 48260, students with a valid excused absence are not truant.

Note: For examples of strategies for reducing chronic absences, see BP/AR 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy and CSBA's policy brief, Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence. For information about the impact of absences on a student's grades, see BP 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement.

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

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

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies, and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48205)

Note: The following paragraph is optional. Pursuant to Education Code 46014, the Governing Board may allow students to be absent for religious exercises or instruction. If the Board allows such absences, it must first adopt a resolution permitting an excused absence for this purpose. The Board is also mandated to adopt regulations governing students' attendance at such exercises or instruction and the reporting of these absences; see accompanying administrative regulation.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 46014)

Inasmuch as school attendance and class participation are integral to students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule medical and other appointments during non-school hours.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 46010.1 and the California Supreme Court in American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al. (1997), minor students do not need parent/guardian consent to obtain confidential medical services, and schools are authorized to excuse a student from school to obtain such services.

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

Note: 5 CCR 421 requires the Board to approve reasonable methods for verifying student absences due to illness or quarantine. See the accompanying administrative regulation for examples of methods of verification.

The Board shall, by resolution entered into its minutes, approve reasonable methods that may be used to verify student absences due to illness or quarantine. (5 CCR 421)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)

37201 School month

37223 Weekend classes

41601 Reports of average daily attendance

42238-42250.1 Apportionments

46000 Records (attendance)

46010-46014 Absences

46100-46119 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)

48210-48216 Exclusions from attendance

48240-48246 Supervisors of attendance

48260-48273 Truants

48292 Filing complaint against parent

48320-48324 School attendance review boards

48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance

48980 Parental notifications

49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade

49701 Provisions of the interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children

ELECTIONS CODE

12302 Student participation on precinct boards

FAMILY CODE

6920-6929 Consent by minor for medical treatment

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, TITLE 5

306 Explanation of absence

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)

66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 244 (1983)

COURT DECISIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Brief, December 2010

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

(11/99 11/11) 3/17

CSBA Sample | AR 5113 Students

Absences And Excuses

Excused Absences

Note: Items #1-14 below reflect absences that are authorized by law to be considered as excused absences for purposes of enforcing the compulsory state attendance laws.

Pursuant to Education Code 48205, absences specified in items #1-10 are considered absences in computing average daily attendance and do not generate state apportionment payments.

Subject to any applicable limitation, condition, or other requirement specified in law, a student's absence shall be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)
(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointment (Education Code 48205)
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the student's immediate family (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48205, absence due to the illness or medical appointment of a student's child is counted as an excused absence. As amended by AB 2289 (Ch. 942, Statutes of 2018), Education Code 48205 prohibits the district from requiring a physician's note for such absences. See the section "Method of Verification" below.

6. Illness or medical appointment of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent (Education Code 48205)

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

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)

- a. Appearance in court
- b. Attendance at a funeral service
- c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony

- d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester
- e. Attendance at an employment conference
- f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization

8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302 (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

9. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code 49701, and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

10. Attendance at a naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen (Education Code 48205)

Note: Item #11 below should be included only if the Governing Board has adopted a resolution permitting absences for religious instruction or exercises. See the accompanying Board policy. If these absences are allowed, Education Code 46014 mandates that the Board adopt regulations governing students' attendance at religious exercises or instruction and the reporting of such absences. These regulations should include all of item #11 below and may be expanded to reflect district practice.

11. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school (Education Code 46014)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

Note: Education Code 46014 provides that absence for participation in religious instruction or exercises will not be considered an absence for state apportionment purposes if the student attends school for at least the minimum school day and is not absent for this purpose on more than four days per school month. Pursuant to Education Code 46112, 46113, 46117, and 46141, unless otherwise provided by law, the minimum school day is generally 180 minutes for kindergarten, 230 minutes for grades 1-3, and 240 minutes for grades 4-12. For further information, see AR 6112 - School Day.

Absence for student participation in religious exercises or instruction shall not be considered an absence for the purpose of computing average daily attendance if the student attends at least the minimum school day as specified in AR 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days per school month. (Education Code 46014)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

12. Work in the entertainment or allied industry (Education Code 48225.5)

Such absence shall be excused provided that the student holds a work permit authorizing such work and is absent for a period of not more than five consecutive days and up to five absences per school year. (Education Code 48225.5)

13. Participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience (Education Code 48225.5)

A student may be excused for up to five such absences per school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code 48225.5)

Note: As amended by AB 2289, Education Code 48205 clarifies that, in addition to the excused absences described in Education Code 48205 and 48225.5, students may be excused for other reasons at the discretion of school administrators.

14. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances (Education Code 48205, 48260)

Note: AB 2289 amended Education Code 48205 to revise the definition of "immediate family" as provided in the following paragraph.

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household. (Education Code 48205)

Method of Verification

Note: Education Code 48205, as amended by AB 2289, prohibits the district from requiring a physician's note for absences due to the illness or medical appointment of the student's child. However, the district is authorized to require verification of other absences. The following section should be revised to reflect district-adopted methods of verification and to specify employee(s) assigned to verify absences. 5 CCR 420-421 provide guidelines for verifying absences due to illness; quarantine; medical, dental, or eye appointments; or attendance at a funeral service of a member of a student's immediate family. 5 CCR 421 authorizes a student's absence to be verified by a school or public health nurse, attendance supervisor, physician, principal, teacher, or any other qualified district employee assigned to make such verification.

Student absence to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note. (Education Code 48205)

For other absences, the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

When an absence is planned, the principal or designee shall be notified prior to the date of the absence when possible.

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, fax, email, or voice mail from parent/guardian or parent representative.
2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
 - a. Name of student
 - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative
 - c. Name of verifying employee
 - d. Date(s) of absence
 - e. Reason for absence

(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)

3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in item #2 above.
4. Physician's verification.

Note: The following optional paragraph provides a means of verifying an excuse for confidential medical services without inquiring into the nature of the medical services.

- a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may request a note from the medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.

Note: The following optional paragraph provides that, after absences for illness on multiple occasions, the student may be required to bring a note from a physician to verify the illness. If a student does not have access to medical services in order to obtain such verification, the district may assist the student in obtaining the medical consultation if it is required.

- b. If a student shows a pattern of chronic absenteeism due to illness, district staff may require physician verification of any further student absences.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Parental Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall:

Note: The requirement in item #1 below is for use by districts whose board has adopted a resolution permitting an excused absence for religious instruction or exercises. See the accompanying Board policy and item #11 in the section "Excused Absences" above.

1. Notify parents/guardians of the right to excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their places of worship, or at other suitable places away from school property designated by a religious group, church, or denomination (Education Code 46014, 48980)

Note: The requirement in item #2 applies to all districts. Districts that maintain only elementary grades should delete the reference to students in grades 7-12.

2. Notify students in grades 7-12 and the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the district 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)

3. Notify parents/guardians that a student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

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

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

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