

TRUANCY

To improve student attendance, the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools shall implement positive steps to identify the reasons for a student's unexcused absences and to help resolve the problems caused by truancy. Such strategies shall focus on early intervention and may include, but not be limited to, communication with parents/guardians and the use of student study teams.

(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

In addition, the County Superintendent shall cooperate with other agencies within the community to meet the needs of students who have serious school attendance or behavior problems and to maintain a continuing inventory of community resources, including alternative programs.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

Habitually truant students may be referred to a school attendance review board, a truancy mediation program operated by the county's district attorney or probation officer, and/or juvenile court in accordance with law.

For purposes of California's welfare system (CalWORKS), a student shall be determined to be regularly attending school unless he/she has been referred to the county district attorney or probation office pursuant to Education Code 48263.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

TRUANCY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 *Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)*
37223 *Weekend classes*
41601 *Reports of average daily attendance*
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)*
48240-48246 *Supervisors of attendance*
48260-48273 *Truants*
48290-48296 *Failure to comply; complaints against parents*
48320-48324 *School attendance review boards*
48340-48341 *Improvement of student attendance*
49067 *Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade*

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)*

Management Resources:

CDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES

0114.98 *School Attendance and CalWORKS, Management Bulletin 98-01*

CDE PUBLICATIONS

School Attendance Review Board Handbook, 1995

CSBA ADVISORIES

0520.97 *Welfare Reform and Requirements for School Attendance*

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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

TRUANCY

An attendance supervisor or designee, peace officer, or school administrator or designee may arrest or assume temporary custody, during school hours, of any minor student found away from his/her home who is absent from school without a valid excuse. Any person so arresting or assuming temporary custody shall deliver the student and make reports in accordance with Education Code 48265 and 48266. (Education Code 48264)

(cf. 3515.3 - District Police/Security Department)
(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)

Upon receiving a complaint from any person that a parent/guardian has violated the state compulsory education laws contained in Education Code 48200-48341, the Yolo County Office of Education attendance supervisor shall make a full and impartial investigation of all charges. If it appears upon investigation that the parent/guardian has violated these laws, the Yolo County Superintendent of Schools shall refer such parent/guardian to the school attendance review board. (Education Code 48290, 48291, 48292)

Strategies for Addressing Truancy

The following steps shall be implemented based on the number of truanancies committed by the student:

1. Students shall be classified as truant if absent from school without a valid excuse three full days in one school year, or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. Such students shall be reported to the County Superintendent. (Education Code 48260)

The parent/guardian of a student classified as a truant shall be notified of the following: (Education Code 48260.5)

- a. The student is truant.
- b. The parent/guardian is obligated to compel the student to attend school.
- c. The parent/guardian who fails to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction of the law and subject to prosecution pursuant to Education Code 48290-48296.
- d. Alternative educational programs are available in the County Office.

(cf. 6181 - Alternative Schools)
(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

- e. The parent/guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the student's truancy.

TRUANCY (continued)

- f. The student may be subject to arrest by a probation officer, a peace officer, a school administrator, an attendance supervisor or his/her designee under Education Code 48264 if found away from home and absent from school without a valid excuse.
- g. The student may be subject to suspension, restriction or delay of his/her driving privilege pursuant to Vehicle Code 13202.7.
- h. It is recommended that the parent/guardian accompany the student to school and attend classes with the student for one day.

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Upon his/her first truancy, a student may be given a written warning by a peace officer. A record of this warning may be kept at school for not less than two years or until the student graduates or transfers from the school. If the student transfers, the record may be forwarded to the new school. (Education Code 48264.5)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

The County Superintendent may notify the district attorney and/or probation officer of the name of each student who has been classified as a truant and the name and address of the student's parents/guardians. (Education Code 48260.6)

Upon a student's first truancy, the student may be required to attend makeup classes on one day of a weekend pursuant to Education Code 37223. (Education Code 48264.5)

- 2. Any student who has once been reported as a truant shall again be reported to the County Superintendent as a truant if he/she is absent from school without valid excuse one or more days or is tardy on one or more days. (Education Code 48261)

In addition, an appropriate County Office staff member shall make every effort to hold at least one conference with the student and parent/guardian and may discuss resources available for achieving regular school attendance.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Success Teams)

(cf. 6178.1 - Work Experience Education)

The County Superintendent may notify the district attorney and/or probation officer whether the student continues to be classified as a truant after the parents have been notified in accordance with #1a-h above. (Education Code 48260.6)

TRUANCY (continued)

3. Upon his/her third truancy within the same school year, a student shall be classified as a habitual truant. (Education Code 48262, 48264.5)

Students who are habitual truants, irregular in school attendance, or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be referred to, and required to attend, a school attendance review board, a truancy mediation program established by the district attorney or the probation officer, or a comparable program deemed acceptable by the County Office's attendance supervisor. (Education Code 48263, 48264.5)

Upon making a referral to a school attendance review board or the probation department, the County Superintendent shall provide the student and parent/guardian, in writing, the name and address of the school attendance review board or probation department and the reason for the referral. This notice shall indicate that the student and parent/guardian shall be required, along with the County Office staff person making the referral, to meet with the school attendance review board or probation officer to consider a proper disposition of the referral. (Education Code 48263)

If the student does not successfully complete the truancy mediation program or other similar program, he/she shall be subject to item #4 below. (Education Code 48264.5)

If the County Superintendent determines that available community services cannot resolve the problem of the truant or insubordinate student or if the student and/or student's parents/guardians have failed to respond to the directives of the County Office or to services provided, the County Superintendent may so notify the county district attorney and/or the probation officer, if the district attorney or probation officer has elected to participate in a truancy mediation program. (Education Code 48263)

4. Upon his/her fourth truancy within the same school year, the student shall be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. (Education Code 48264.5; Welfare and Institutions Code 601)

If a student has been judged by the county juvenile court to be a habitual truant, the County Superintendent shall inform the juvenile court and the student's probation or parole officer whenever that student is truant one or more days or tardy on one or more days without a valid excuse in the same or succeeding school year, or is habitually insubordinate or disorderly at school. The juvenile court and probation or parole officer shall be so notified within 10 days of the violation. (Education Code 48267)