

Truancies and Unexcused Absences

Some reasons for truancy include:

1. Going to work with a parent or a family member
2. Baby-sitting, taking care of other family members
3. Personal problems
4. Car repair
5. Waiting for service or repair people to arrive
6. Missing the bus
7. Taking a trip or family vacation
8. Overslept
9. Coming to school more than 30 minutes late OR being pulled out more than 30 minutes early
10. Any other reason not included in the Excused Absences section

NOTE: Ten (10) excused absences is considered to be excessive. Education code section 48260—Any pupil subject to full-time education or to compulsory education who is absent school without valid excuse more than three (3) days or tardy or absent for more than any 30 minute period during the school day without a valid excuse or three occasions in one school year or any combination thereof is truant and shall be reported to the attendance administrator or superintendent of the school district.



*Education is not the filling of a pail, but
the lighting of a fire. ~William Butler*

Advice for families:

- ◆ Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- ◆ Put out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- ◆ Set up a homework routine.
- ◆ Check on academic progress. Check on your students often and encourage meaningful after school activities that will engage them in school. This is especially important as they age.
- ◆ Plan medical appointments for outside the school day. You are sending the message that school attendance is important and an expectation.
- ◆ Complaints of a tummy ache or head ache are not good reasons for a child to stay home.
- ◆ Talk to school personnel about how everyone can make going to school more pleasant.
- ◆ Develop a back up plan for your children to attend school. (family member, neighbor, friend)
- ◆ If you need help ask for it but also read and research to learn as much as you can about children and parenting.

For further information, please contact:
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**School Attendance Informational
Guide**
Merced City School District
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The Mission of the Merced City School District, a community of diverse learners striving for higher achievement, is to ensure that every student excels academically, builds character, and is a productive member of our community; we will do this by delivering exceptional instruction of a well-rounded and relevant curriculum that incorporates innovative practices and partnerships with family and community in a safe learning environment.

Danyelle Gonzalez, Director of Pupil Services

School Attendance Laws: Education Code 48200: Compulsory Education

All persons between 6 and 18 years of age are required to attend school. Parents have the legal responsibility to ensure their child's attendance.

All absences must be verified within 72 hours or the absence becomes an unexcused absence or truancy.

Excused Absences (with verification, E.C. 46010, 46010.3, 48205)

*Not an exhaustive list from Ed Code but the most common are listed here.

1. Personal Illness (school may require a doctor's note verifying absence after 10 days)
2. Quarantine under direction of a health officer
3. Personal, medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointment.
4. Funeral services for a member of the immediate family (limited to one day in the state and three days out of state)
5. Personal court appearance by student (requires verification)
6. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony (recommend three days advance notice to school)
7. Prior Principal Approval for reasons which may not be included elsewhere, but are pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

Importance of school attendance:

1. Students chronically absent (10% or more) in Kindergarten or first grade are less likely to read proficiently in 3rd grade.
2. Each year of chronic absenteeism in elementary is directly related to poor attendance, discipline and grades in 6th grade.
3. School absence is the most consistent NEGATIVE predictor of gains in math and reading.
4. Student truancy is a predictor of dropping out in high school.
5. When students miss too much school, they are less likely to make friends, bond with teachers or feel comfortable in the classroom setting.
6. Regular, timely attendance instills positive lifelong habits.
7. Being in school fosters both academic and social skills.

What is the School Attendance Review Board (SARB)?

SARB was established by the California legislature in 1976 to:

1. Increase efforts to meet the needs of students with attendance problems
2. Promote the use of alternatives to the juvenile court system

The SARB process starts with the identification of attendance and/or behavior problems followed by classroom, school site, and district level interventions.

SARB's main task is to find solutions to unresolved student attendance and discipline problems by bringing together on a regular basis, representatives of agencies that make up that board.

SARB makes decisions referring families to community agencies based on the appropriateness of the services and makes recommendations to meet the needs of students.

SARB seeks to understand why students are experiencing attendance and behavior problems and serves as a vehicle to correct those problems.

SARB also provides accountability in situations where situations don't improve or continue to deteriorate and can sanction action regarding public assistance or a referral for the parents of the student to the District Attorney's office.