



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.1d

Meeting Date: September 26, 2019

Subject: Approve Board Policy 5113.1 Revision: Truancy

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Deputy Superintendent's Office

Recommendation: Approve revision of current truancy policy to include both truancy and chronic absenteeism components that reflect best practice, current state guidelines, and priority initiative work.

Background/Rationale: Chronic absenteeism is a significant national, state, and District issue. A student that misses ten percent or more of the school year for any reason (excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions) is chronically absent. High levels of chronic absenteeism are associated with higher levels of suspension, higher dropout rates, and lower A-G completion rates. The revised policy includes greater emphasis on identification and intervention as soon as students begin to struggle with attendance. The policy also requires the District to provide the Board with regular reports regarding the District's progress in improving student attendance rates, and for each numerically significant student population. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy, and to make changes as needed. Finally, the policy emphasizes the importance of creating attendance teams and using data to guide intervention efforts.

Financial Considerations: Although additional costs are not mandated by the policy, there is a need for the District to evaluate the level of resources required to significantly reduce truancy and chronic absenteeism. This is of noteworthy importance given the District's Be Here Attendance grant expires in June of 2020. Failure to identify additional resources before the grant expires will substantially hinder the work and the District's ability to decrease chronic absenteeism.

LCAP Goal(s): Safe, Emotionally Healthy and Engaged Students; College, Career and Life Ready Graduates

Documents Attached:

1. Proposed BP 5113.1 – Revised Chronic Absence and Truancy Policy
2. BP 5113.1 - red-lined version

<p>Estimated Time of Presentation: NA</p> <p>Submitted by: Doug Huscher, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support and Jennifer Kretschman, Attendance and Enrollment Specialist</p> <p>Approved by: Lisa Allen, Deputy Superintendent</p>

SCUSD

Board Policy

Students

CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY

The Governing Board has reviewed research suggesting that excessive absenteeism, whether caused by excused or unexcused absences, is an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and 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. The following policy aims to clarify district policy and practice with respect to attendance promotion and monitoring.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance data 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. He/she shall provide the Board with data on school attendance, chronic absence, and truancy rates for all district students, for each school, and for each numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such data shall be disaggregated and used in the development of annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement and for inclusion in the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan and other applicable school and district plans.

(cf. 0400 - Comprehensive Plans)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils) (cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan.

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention of 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, access to extended day activities, access to mental and physical health services, information material for parents/guardians on the importance of regular school attendance, and incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance. The Superintendent or designee also shall implement strategies at the district and school levels that enable early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance, such as attendance team or multidisciplinary team meetings that monitor data and interventions.

(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)

BP 5113.1

The Superintendent or designee shall work with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. He/she will collaborate with district/school-based support services, child welfare services, law enforcement, probation, courts, public transit, public housing, public health care agencies, other government agencies, businesses, community-based organizations and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to ensure that alternative educational programs, nutrition, health care, and other support services are available for students and families and to intervene as necessary when students have serious attendance problems.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)
(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)

Students who are identified as truants shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation.

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for his/her out-of-school suspension or expulsion. Alternative disciplinary strategies, support interventions focused on eliminating attendance barriers, and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

The Superintendent or designee shall report at least annually to the Board regarding the district's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students and for each numerically significant student population. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to make changes as needed. The Superintendent or designee shall engage district and school staff, as well as parent and community leaders, in program evaluation and improvement and in identification of how to best allocate available community resources.

School Attendance Review Board

In accordance with law and administrative regulation, habitual truants may be referred to a school attendance review board (SARB).

The Board may submit a nomination to the County Superintendent of Schools for a person who will serve on the county SARB as a representative of school districts. (Education Code 48321)

The Board shall appoint members of the district's SARB, who may include, but are not limited to, a parent/guardian as well as representatives of the district; county probation department; county welfare department; county office of education; law enforcement agencies; community-based youth service centers; school guidance personnel; child welfare and attendance personnel; school or county health care personnel; school, county, or community mental health personnel; the county district attorney's office; and the county public defender's office. (Education Code 48321)

The district's SARB shall operate in accordance with Education Code 48320-48325 and procedures established by the Superintendent or designee.

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)*

48225.5 *Work permits, entertainment and allied industries*

48240-48246 *Supervisors of attendance*

48260-48273 *Truants*

48290-482967 *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 *Public School Performance Accountability Program*

52060 *Identification of state priority 5 / pupil engagement as measured
by attendance and chronic absenteeism rate*

60901 *Chronic absence*

Legal Reference continued: (see next page)

Legal Reference: (continued)

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*

15497.5 *Local control and accountability plan template*

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014

ATTENDANCE WORKS PUBLICATIONS

Count Us In! Working Together to Show that Every School Day Matters, 2014

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 Handbook, 2015

School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000

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>

OnTrackCA: <http://www.ontrackca.org>

Sacramento City USD

Board Policy

Truancy

BP 5113.1

Students

~~To improve student attendance, the Superintendent or designee 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 Study Teams)~~

~~(cf. 6176—Weekend/Saturday Classes)~~

~~In addition, the Superintendent or designee 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 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 district's School Attendance Review Board.—~~

The Governing Board believes that excessive absenteeism, whether caused by excused or unexcused absences, 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)

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. He/she shall

provide the Board with data on school attendance, chronic absence, and truancy rates for all district students, for each school, and for each numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such data shall be disaggregated and used in the development of annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement and for inclusion in the district's local control and accountability plan and other applicable school and district plans.

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(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

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(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5131.2 - Bullying)

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The Superintendent or designee shall work with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. He/she also 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 ensure that alternative educational programs and nutrition, health care, and other support services are available for students and families and to intervene as necessary when students have serious attendance problems.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

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(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
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The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding the district's progress in improving student attendance rates for all students and for each numerically significant student population. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to make changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in identification of how to best allocate available community resources.

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[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](#)
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[48260-48273 Truants](#)
[48290-482967 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 Academic Performance Index; numerically significant student subgroups](#)
[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](#)
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[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](#)
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[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 Handbook, 2015](#)

[School Attendance Improvement Handbook, 2000](#)

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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>

OnTrackCA: <http://www.ontrackca.org>

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~~48200-48208 Children ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)~~

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~~48320-48324—School attendance review boards~~

~~48340-48341 Improvement of student attendance~~

~~49067—Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade~~

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~~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.esba.org>~~

Policy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
adopted: April 15, 2002 Sacramento, California