

Regulation 5113: Absences And Excuses

Status: ADOPTED

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Excused Absences

CSBA NOTE: Items #1-~~16~~17 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-~~12~~13, although excused for purposes of enforcing compulsory state attendance laws, 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, including absence for the benefit of the student's mental or behavioral health. (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer. (Education Code 48205)
3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic service or appointment. (Education Code 48205)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 48205, as amended by SB 350 (Ch. 601, Statutes of 2023), the district is required to excuse a student's absence for up to five days when the absence is for the purpose of attending funeral services or grieving the death of the student's immediate family or of another person in close association with the student, as specified in Item #4 below.

4. Attendance at funeral services for or grieving the death of a member of the student's immediate family. (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall or, as determined by the student's parent/guardian, a person so closely associated with the student as to be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. considered the student's immediate family (Education Code 48205)

A student may be excused for this reason for up to five days for each incident. (Education Code 48205)

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

CSBA 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, and the district is prohibited 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)
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. Attendance or appearance Appearance in court
 - b. Attendance at a funeral service
 - c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 48205, as amended by AB 1503 (Ch. 846, Statutes of 2023), student attendance at a religious retreat may be excused for no more than one school day each semester.

- d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than ~~four hours per~~ one school day each 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)
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)

10. Attendance at the student's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen: (Education Code 48205)
11. Participation in a cultural ceremony or event which relates to the habits, practices, beliefs, and traditions of a certain group of people: (Education Code 48205)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 48205, as amended by SB 955 (Ch. 921, Statutes of 2022), districts are required to allow an excused absence for middle and high school students one school day per school year for the purpose of engaging in a civic or political event, provided that the student notifies the school in advance. At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, additional such absences may be permitted.

12. For a middle school or high school student, engagement in a civic or political event, provided that the student notifies the school ahead of the absence: ([Education Code 48205](#))

Unless otherwise permitted by the Superintendent or designee, students shall be limited to one such school day-long absence per each school year ([Education Code 48205](#))

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to [Education Code 48205](#), as amended by SB 350, a student's absence is required to be excused for up to three days when the absence is for the purpose of accessing victim or grief support services or for participating in safety planning as it relates to the death of a student's immediate family member, or of another person in close association with the student, as specified in Item #13 below.

13. When a student's immediate family member or, as determined by the student's parent/guardian, a person so closely associated with the student as to be considered the student's immediate family has died: ([Education Code 48205](#))

a. To access services from a victim services organization or agency

b. To access grief support services

c. To participate in safety planning or take other actions, including, but not limited to, temporary or permanent relocation, to increase the safety of the student, an immediate family member of the student, or a person determined by the student's parent/guardian to be in such close association with the student as to be considered immediate family.

Such absence shall be excused for not more than three days for each incident. (Education Code 48205)

CSBA NOTE: Pursuant to Education Code 46014, with the written consent of the student's parent/guardian, districts may excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or instruction.

In order for the district to receive average daily attendance funding for such absences, the Governing Board must first adopt a resolution permitting an excused absence for this purpose and regulations governing students' attendance at religious exercises or instruction and the reporting of such absences.

These regulations should include all of Item #14 below and may be expanded to reflect district practice.

The student must also attend school for at least the minimum school day and not be 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. ~~These regulations should include all of Item #13 below and may be expanded to reflect district practice.~~

- ~~13.~~ 14. 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 property as designated by the religious group, church, or denomination. (Education Code 46014)

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 Administrative Regulation 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days ~~per~~ each school month. (Education Code 46014)

- ~~14.~~ 15. ~~Work in the entertainment or allied industry. (Education Code 48225.5)~~ For Work for a student who holds a work permit authorizing work in the entertainment or allied industries for a period of not more than five consecutive days. , work in such industry (Education Code 48225.5)

For this purpose, student absence shall be excused for a maximum of up to five absences each ~~per~~ school year. (Education Code 48225.5)

- ~~15.~~ 16. 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~~ each school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code 48225.5)

- ~~16.~~ 17. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances. (Education Code 48205, 48260)

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

Method of Verification

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 48205 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, either in person or by written note, 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,~~ digital, or ~~voice mail~~ audio message 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:~~

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.~~

The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in Item #2 above.

- 4. Physician's verification

CSBA 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:

CSBA 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:

Parental Notifications

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

CSBA NOTE: The requirement in Item #1 below is for use by ~~districts~~any district whose board has adopted a resolution permitting an excused absence for religious instruction or exercises. See the accompanying Board policy and Item #~~13~~14 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)

CSBA 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~~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)

Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

Policy Reference UPDATE Service

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Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

5 CCR 306

Description

Explanation of absence

5 CCR 420-~~421~~424

Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes

Ed. Code 1740

Employment of personnel to supervise attendance

Ed. Code 37201

School month

Ed. Code 37223

Weekend classes

Ed. Code 41601

Reports of average daily attendance

Ed. Code 42238-42250.1

Apportionments

Ed. Code 46000

Attendance records

Ed. Code 46010-46015

Absences

Ed. Code 46110-46120

Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools

Ed. Code 46140-46148

Attendance in junior high and high schools

Ed. Code 48200-48208

Children ages 6-18; compulsory full-time attendance

Ed. Code 48210-48216

Exclusions from attendance

Ed. Code 48225.5

Work permit; excused absence; entertainment or allied industries; participation in not-for-profit performing arts organization

Ed. Code 48240-48246

Supervisors of attendance

Ed. Code 48260-48273

Truants

Ed. Code 48292	Filing complaint against parent
Ed. Code 48320-48324	School attendance review boards
Ed. Code 48340-48341	Improvement of student attendance
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
Ed. Code 49067	Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
Ed. Code 49701	Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
Elec. Code 12302	Student participation on precinct boards
Fam. Code 6920-6930	Consent by minor for medical treatment
W&I Code 11253.5	Compulsory school attendance; eligibility for aid
W&I Code 601-601.5	Habitually truant minors
Management Resources	Description
Attorney General Opinion	66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 244 (1983)
Attorney General Opinion	87 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 168 (2004)
Court Decision	American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307
CSBA Publication	Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence, Policy Data to Drive Student Engagement, March 2024 https://www.csba.org/-/media/CSBA/Files/GovernanceResources/GovernanceBriefs/Attendance-Brief, December 2010-2024.ashx
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
3516	Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan
3516	Emergencies And Disaster Preparedness Plan

4119.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
4219.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
4319.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
5000	Concepts And Roles
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5020	Parent Rights And Responsibilities
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance
5112.2	Exclusions From Attendance
5112.5	Open/Closed Campus
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.1	Chronic Absence And Truancy
5113.11	Attendance Supervision
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5131	Conduct
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.33	Head Lice
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications

5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
5147	Dropout Prevention
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6111	School Calendar
6112	School Day
6112	School Day
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6141.2	Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6154	Homework/Makeup Work
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6164.2	Guidance/Counseling Services
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
6177	Summer Learning Programs
6183	Home And Hospital Instruction
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6185	Community Day School
6185	Community Day School