

LODI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy 5113

Students

Absences and Excuses

The Board of Education 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. Parents/guardians of children aged six (6) to eighteen (18) are obligated to send their children to school unless otherwise provided by law.

Excused Absences

Absence from school shall be allowed only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations. The Superintendent shall establish such procedures as deemed necessary to determine the causes of habitual truancy, including medical verification for excessive absence, and cooperate with other private and governmental agencies in correcting the causes thereof. (Education Code 48205)

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

Absences for Religious Purposes

The Board of Education shall allow students to be absent for participation in religious instruction, the observance of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion or attendance at religious retreats. Such absences shall be considered excused subject to administrative regulations.

Unexcused Absences

When an unexcused absence occurs, the student and parent/guardian shall be notified and informed of the district's policy regarding excessive unexcused absences. The student and parent/guardian shall have a reasonable opportunity to explain the absence.

If the absence is not verified as excusable within ten (10) days, it shall be recorded as unexcused. The person receiving any explanation of the absence by the parent/guardian shall make a record of this explanation and the date when it was given.

Effect of Absence on Grades/Credits

If a student's absence is excused under Education Code 48205, he/she shall be allowed to complete any missed assignment or test that can be reasonably given, as determined by the teacher of that class. The student shall be given full credit for the assignment or test if he/she satisfactorily completes the assignment or test within a reasonable period of time. A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy.

Parent Notification

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall send a notification to the parents/guardians of all students, and to all students in grades 7-12, 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.

Legal References: 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 between ages of 6 and 18 years
(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 pupil attendance

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

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

Policy

adopted: 05/11/67

revised: 11/17/87

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