

Attendance and Truancy

Pursuant to EC 48200 and California compulsory education laws, every child from the age of 6 to 18 in the District is required to attend school regularly, except 16 and 17 year-olds who have graduated from high school or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) and obtained parental permission to leave. All enrolled students, regardless of age, will be held to the same District school attendance rules. The Governing Board recognizes that vigilant supervision of attendance, to improve attendance rates and graduation rates and to reduce truancy and dropout rates, is vital to the learning and achievement of all children.

Students and their parents are responsible for individual attendance. Parents should be aware that there is a revenue loss to the District for any absence (excused or unexcused). California State Education mandates that schools/districts notify parents/guardians if their child is deemed “truant” - accumulates three or more days of unexcused absences and/or unexcused class periods during the school year. In addition to the State Education Code, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District notifies parents/guardians if a student has had irregular attendance (high numbers of tardies or excused absences) during the school year. In both “truancy” and “irregular attendance” cases, a student may be referred to the District’s School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

California Education Code 48205 defines school absences as either excused or non-excused. According to the education code, excused absences are generally unavoidable and include the following:

- Illness
- Funeral services for immediate family
- Quarantine
- Medical/dental/eye appointments

The parent/guardian of the student must send a note and/or phone the school to clear any of these excusable absences. Failure to clear excused absences will result in a recorded “unexcused” absence.

The State defines non-excused absences to include such events as:

- Vacations
- Parent requiring student to perform childcare
- Student’s birthday
- Family changing residence within school district
- Visiting relatives
- Car trouble
- Shopping
- Oversleeping

Short-term Independent Study may be arranged for students that will be absent from regular instruction for a minimum of five (5) consecutive instructional days (Board Policy 6158). A

request for Independent Study should be submitted five school days prior to the absence, and the Principal has the right to deny a short-term Independent Study agreement. If approved, the work must be completed and turned in on the assigned due date or when the student returns to school, whichever is first.

Students who are deemed “truant”, based on their attendance pattern, may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of his/her driving privilege pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 13202.7. In addition, students may lose credit for courses being taken, may be required to attend makeup classes conducted on the weekend (E.C. 37223), and/or may be transferred to an alternative program in the District.

Reporting Absences:

Elementary - Parents of elementary students should call their school's attendance telephone the morning of a student's absence.

Secondary - All absences must be cleared within two days of returning to school by parent either telephoning or sending a note to school.