

Fall River Joint Unified School District

Board Policy 5113

Students

Absences and Excuses

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 6 to 18 are obligated to send their children to school unless otherwise provided by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

Excused Absences

Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations. (Education Code 46010, 48216, 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 nonschool hours.

At the beginning of each academic year, notifications shall be sent to the parents/guardians of all students, and to all students in grades 7 through 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. (Education Code 46010.1)

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency or confidential medical appointment.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulations. (Education Code 46014)

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy. (Education Code 49067)

Legal Reference:

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 ages 6-18 (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 student attendance
 49067 Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
 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
 66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 245, 249 (1983)
 COURT DECISIONS
 American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307
 Management Resources:
 CDE MANAGEMENT ADVISORIES
 0114.98 School Attendance and CalWORKS, Management Bulletin 98-01
 CSBA ADVISORIES
 0520.97 Welfare Reform and Requirements for School Attendance
 WEB SITES
 CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
 (2/95 2/98) 11/99

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 Revised: 5/4/88, 11/2/05

Regulation 5113 **Absences And Excuses**

Students

Excused Absences

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)
3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointment (Education Code 48205)
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family, which shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three

days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)

Immediate family shall be defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister, or any relative living in the student's immediate household. (Education Code 45194, 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)
6. The illness or medical appointment during school hours 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. Appearance in court
 - b. Attendance at a funeral service
 - c. Observation of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion
 - d. Attendance at religious retreats not to exceed four hours per 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. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction in accordance with district policy (Education Code 46014)
 - a. In such instances, the student shall attend at least the minimum school day.
 - b. The student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four days per school month.

Method of Verification

When a student who has been absent returns to school, he/she shall present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having control of the minor, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, fax, or email 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:
- 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.
4. Physician's verification.
- a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may contact a medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.

(2/98 11/99) 11/07