

## **Board Policy – Chronic Absence and Truancy**

### **Board Policy 5111**

BRIDGES School Board believes that excessive student absenteeism and tardiness, 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 wants 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 school.

(reference to BP for Absences and Excuses)

The Director or designee shall establish a system to track and monitor student attendance accurately, including methods to identify students classified as chronic absentees and truants, as defined by law and administrative regulation.

To encourage school attendance, the Director or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention and early intervention of attendance problems. Preventive strategies may include efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, and school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness to the schools. The Director or designee also may provide incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance.

The Director or designee shall work with students and parents/guardians to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. Based on this needs assessment, he/she shall collaborate with community agencies, including, but not limited to, child welfare services, law enforcement, courts, and/or public health care agencies, 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.

As required by law (Education Code [48321](#)), habitually truant students shall be referred to a school attendance review board (SARB), a truancy mediation program operated by the county's district attorney or probation officer, and/or a juvenile court.

The Director or designee shall regularly analyze data on student absence to identify patterns of absence by grade level and / or student population. Such data shall be used to identify common barriers to attendance, prioritize resources for intervention, and monitor progress over time. The Director or designee shall periodically report this information to the Board for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and making changes as needed. As appropriate, the Director or designee also shall provide this information to key school staff and community agency partners to engage them in program evaluation and improvement.

## **School Attendance Review Board**

The Board shall submit nominations to the County Superintendent of Schools for a district representative on the county SARB. (Education Code [48321](#))

The Board shall appoint members of the district's SARB, who may include, but need not be limited to, a parent/guardian as well as representatives of the school, 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, and school or county health care personnel. (Education Code [48321](#))

The school's SARB shall operate in accordance with Education Code [48320-48325](#) and procedures established by the Director 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)

[48240-48246](#) Supervisors of attendance

[48260-48273](#) Truants

[48290-48296](#) Failure to comply; complaints against parents

[48320-48325](#) School attendance review boards

[48340-48341](#) Improvement of student attendance

[48400-48403](#) Compulsory continuation education

[49067](#) Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade

[60901](#) Chronic absence