

**ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR
EXCUSED PUPIL ABSENCES**

Notwithstanding Ed Code Sections: 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

1. Due to his or her illness (school may require doctor's note verifying absence after ten days).
2. Due to quarantine under the direction of a health officer.
3. For the purposes of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered (requires doctor's note).
4. For the purpose of attending the funeral services of family member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than 3 days if the service is conducted outside of California.
5. For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.
6. Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
7. For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at his/her own naturalization ceremony, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.
8. For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections Code.

(b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence

that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit.

- (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.
9. Exclusion for medical reasons (not to exceed five (5) school days).
 10. Personal court appearance (requires verification).

SARB Is...

A group of concerned people, parents, school district staff and representatives of community service agencies who meet regularly to help resolve student attendance and behavior issues brought to their attention by a school administrator or a parent/guardian by:

- Meeting the needs of students who have attendance and/or behavior issues that keep them away from school and out of the classroom.
- Providing guidance and coordinated community services to meet the students' needs so they can overcome the barriers that keep them from attending and achieving in school.
- Promoting new public and private community services that can help students with problems.

SARB Is Not...

- A mini-juvenile court
- An agency to punish students
- An agency to place blame on parents, students or schools



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***THE CONSEQUENCES OF
ABSENTEEISM AND BEHAVIOR
PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL***

The SARB Process
As Established by Law

Education Code Section 48260 states “Any pupil subject to compulsory full-time education or to compulsory continuation education who is absent from school without valid excuse 3 full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse on 3 occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance supervisor or to the superintendent of the school district.”

Parents are responsible for a child’s attendance from age 6 until age 18 (Section 48200 Education Code). Once a SARB contract is implemented, it will be enforced and reviewed until the student’s 18th birthday or high school graduation. A SARB contract is effective throughout the State of California.

The law requires that a First Notification of Truancy be provided to parent/guardian, and reported to the attendance supervisor or superintendent. All additional truancies must be reported to them as well. The notice must include certain information provided by law.

The law requires that a Second Notification of Truancy be provided to the District attendance supervisor or superintendent. Parent/Guardian notification is not required, but is recommended and provided in VUSD. Parent/Guardian will be notified of a scheduled meeting and provide a SART plan.

The law requires that a Third Notification of Truancy be provided to parent/guardian. The District is required to make a conscientious effort to meet with parent/guardian.

Habitually Truant – Once the school has filed the appropriate reports regarding truancy and made a conscientious effort to meet with the parent/guardian, the student is then deemed a “*habitual truant*”.

Chronically Truant – A student who has missed 10% or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date, due to unexcused absences is deemed a “*chronic truant*”.

How Can SARB Help You?

Teachers, school administrators, parents and students may seek help from SARB when attendance and/or behavior problems are not solved through available school resources. Referrals to SARB usually come from the Student’s school or parent (guardian).

What Happens When Students and Parents Do Not Comply With SARB Recommendations?

The goal of SARB is to help students solve school attendance and/or behavior problems in order to achieve and succeed in school. If the student or parent(s) do not follow the recommendations of SARB, as stated in the SARB Contract, the SARB Board may request legal action through the Juvenile Court and/or District Attorney’s Office.

PENALTIES - 48293 Education Code

SARB Hearing – The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) will ask the parent and the pupil to sign attendance contract. Failure to comply with the contract will result in the order of a citation to appear in court.

1st Conviction: A fine of not more than \$100.00 plus penalties could amount to as much as \$375.00.

2nd Conviction: A fine of not more than \$250 plus penalties could amount to as much as \$750.00.

3rd or Subsequent Conviction:
A fine of not more than \$500.00 plus penalties, could amount to \$1,400.00.

V.C. 13202.7: Any minor under the age of 18 years, but 13 years of age or older who is a habitual truant may have his/her driving privilege suspended for one year.

Penal Code 48923: Parents of chronically truant pupils may be punished by up to a year in county jail and a fine of \$2,000.

Work permits may be revoked.

Section 112.53.5: Welfare eligibility may be revoked.



TRUANCIES & UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Reasons NOT acceptable for being absent from school are considered truancies or unexcused absences. Examples include:

1. Going to work with parent or other family member.
2. Going to the beach, lake, river, mountains or desert.
3. Visiting family.
4. Going to medical appointments with siblings.
5. Baby-sitting, taking care of other family members.
6. Going on vacation.
7. Personal problems.
8. Repairing car or household items.
9. Waiting for service/repair people to arrive.
10. Shopping.
11. Any other reasons not included in Acceptable Reasons for Excused Pupil Absence.