

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

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

This policy applies to students in programs under the jurisdiction of the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools except that Alternative Education students may additionally be subject to the rules and regulations of the Probation Department, which shall take precedence.

Absences from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations.

Insofar 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.

Upon enrollment of students, notifications shall be made 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. Students in grades K-6 should not be absent from school without their parents/guardians' knowledge or consent except in cases of medical emergency. Students in grades 7-12 should 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 administrative regulations and law.

The County Superintendent or designee shall implement positive steps to reduce truancy, such as communicating with parents/guardians, using student study teams and stressing school safety as described in BP 5041.

The Monterey County Office of Education participates in the Monterey County Truancy Mediation Program as allowed by law in order to meet the special needs of students with school attendance or school behavior problems.

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Students who are habitual truants or habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school may be subject to dis-enrollment and referral to district of residence.

When the student's attendance problems cannot be resolved or the student and parent/guardian have failed to respond to directives to correct the problem, a student who has been classified as truant may be referred to the district attorney or probation officer for truancy mediation.

Legal Reference: Education Code: 1740, 2550.3, 2550.4, 32261
37201, 37223, 41601, 42238.8, 46000,
46010-46015, 46100-46119, 46140-46147,
48200, 48205, 48240-48246, 48260-48273,
48292, 48320-48324, 48340-48341, 49067

Vehicle Code: 13202.7

Code of Regulations, Title 5 306,
420-421

Board Policy 5041

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