

MIDDLETOWN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy 5113.1: Chronic Absence And Truancy

Adopted Date: 12/13/2023

The Governing Board believes that absenteeism, whatever the cause, may be an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and may put students at risk of dropping out of school. The Board desires 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 district.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track student attendance in order to identify individual students who are chronic absentees and truants, as defined in law and administrative regulation, and to identify patterns of absence throughout the district.

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall consult with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy.

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall develop a tiered approach to reducing chronic absence. Such an approach shall include strategies for preventing attendance problems, which may include, but are not limited to, efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness with the school, school-based health services, letters alerting parents/guardians to the value of regular school attendance, and incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance.

The tiered approach shall also provide for early outreach to students as soon as they show signs of poor attendance or if they were chronically absent in the prior school year. Early intervention may include personalized outreach, individual attendance plans, and/or mentoring to students with moderate levels of chronic absence, with additional intensive, interagency wrap-around services for students with the highest level of absence.

Students with serious attendance problems shall be provided with interventions specific to their needs, which may include, but are not limited to, health care referrals, transportation assistance, counseling for mental or emotional difficulties, academic supports, efforts to address school or community safety concerns, discussions with the student and parent/guardian about their attitudes regarding schooling, or other strategies to remove identified barriers to school attendance. The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee may collaborate with child welfare services, law enforcement, courts, public health care agencies, other government agencies, and/or medical, mental health, and oral health care providers to make alternative educational programs and support services available for students and families.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that staff assigned to fulfill attendance-related duties are trained in implementing a trauma-informed approach to chronic absence and receive information about the high correlation between chronic absence and exposure to adverse childhood experiences.

Students who are identified as chronically absent or truant shall be subject to the interventions specified in law and administrative regulation.

A student's truancy, tardiness, or other absence from school shall not be the basis for suspension or

expulsion. Alternative strategies and positive reinforcement for attendance shall be used whenever possible.

The Superintendent, attendance supervisor, or designee shall periodically report to the Board regarding student attendance patterns in the district, including rates of chronic absence and truancy districtwide and for each school, grade level, and numerically significant student subgroup as defined in Education Code 52052. Such information shall be used to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and to develop annual goals and specific actions for student attendance and engagement to be included in the district's local control and accountability plan and other applicable school and district plans. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall engage school staff in program evaluation and improvement and in the determination of how to best allocate available community resources.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 306	Explanation of absence
5 CCR 420-421	Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes
Ed. Code 1740	Employment of personnel to supervise attendance
Ed. Code 37223	Weekend classes
Ed. Code 46000	Attendance records
Ed. Code 46010-46015	Absences
Ed. Code 46110-46120	Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools
Ed. Code 46140-46148	Attendance in junior high and high schools
Ed. Code 48200-48208	Children ages 6-18; compulsory full-time attendance
Ed. Code 48225.5	Work permits; entertainment and allied industries
Ed. Code 48240-48246	Supervisors of attendance
Ed. Code 48260-48273	Truants
Ed. Code 48290-48297	Failure to comply; complaints against parents
Ed. Code 48320-48325	School attendance review boards
Ed. Code 48340-48341	Improvement of student attendance
Ed. Code 48400-48403	Compulsory continuation education
Ed. Code 48900	Grounds for suspension or expulsion
Ed. Code 49067	Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade
Ed. Code 52052	Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups
Ed. Code 60901	Chronic absence

Gov. Code 54950-54963	The Ralph M. Brown Act
Pen. Code 270.1	Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor
Pen. Code 272	Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy
Pen. Code 830.1	Peace officers
Veh. Code 13202.7	Driving privileges; minors; suspension or delay for habitual truancy
W&I Code 11253.5	Compulsory school attendance
W&I Code 256-258	Juvenile hearing officer
W&I Code 601-601.5	Habitually truant minors
Management Resources	Description
Attendance Works Publication	District Attendance Tracking Tool
Attendance Works Publication	The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014
Attendance Works Publications	Bringing Attendance Home: Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence, 2015
Attendance Works Publications	School Attendance Tracking Tool
Attendance Works Publications	For School Board Members: Frequently Asked Questions About Chronic Absence
California Department of Education Publication	School Attendance Review Board: A Road Map for Improved School Attendance and Behavior, rev. 2018
Court Decision	L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County, (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976
CSBA Publication	Attendance Awareness Month, Fact Sheet, September 2014
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Healthy Kids Survey
Website	California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System
Website	CSBA
Website	Attendance Works
Website	California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
0400	Comprehensive Plans

0410	<u>Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities</u>
0420	<u>School Plans/Site Councils</u>
0420	<u>School Plans/Site Councils</u>
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
0450	<u>Comprehensive Safety Plan</u>
0460	<u>Local Control And Accountability Plan</u>
0460	<u>Local Control And Accountability Plan</u>
0470	<u>COVID-19 Mitigation Plan</u>
0500	<u>Accountability</u>
1400	<u>Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools</u>
3515.3	<u>District Police/Security Department</u>
3515.3	<u>District Police/Security Department</u>
4119.41	<u>Employees With Infectious Disease</u>
4131	<u>Staff Development</u>
4219.41	<u>Employees With Infectious Disease</u>
4319.41	<u>Employees With Infectious Disease</u>
5030	<u>Student Wellness</u>
5112.1	<u>Exemptions From Attendance</u>
5112.1	<u>Exemptions From Attendance</u>
5112.3	<u>Student Leave Of Absence</u>
5112.3	<u>Student Leave Of Absence</u>
5112.5	<u>Open/Closed Campus</u>
5113	<u>Absences And Excuses</u>
5113	<u>Absences And Excuses</u>
5113.11	<u>Attendance Supervision</u>
5113.12	<u>District School Attendance Review Board</u>
5113.12	<u>District School Attendance Review Board</u>
5113.2	<u>Work Permits</u>
5113.2	<u>Work Permits</u>
5116.2	<u>Involuntary Student Transfers</u>
5117	<u>Interdistrict Attendance</u>
5117	<u>Interdistrict Attendance</u>

5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5125	Student Records
5125	Student Records
5126	Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement
5131	Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.2	Bullying
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5137	Positive School Climate
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.33	Head Lice
5141.6	School Health Services
5141.6	School Health Services
5144	Discipline
5144	Discipline
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5146	Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students
5147	Dropout Prevention
6020	Parent Involvement
6020	Parent Involvement
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study

6164.2	<u>Guidance/Counseling Services</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6164.5	<u>Student Success Teams</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6172	<u>Gifted And Talented Student Program</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(1)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173-E(2)	<u>Education For Homeless Children</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6173.1	<u>Education For Foster Youth</u>
6173.2	<u>Education Of Children Of Military Families</u>
6173.2	<u>Education Of Children Of Military Families</u>
6173.4	<u>Education For American Indian Students</u>
6175	<u>Migrant Education Program</u>
6175	<u>Migrant Education Program</u>
6176	<u>Weekend/Saturday Classes</u>
6178	<u>Career Technical Education</u>
6178	<u>Career Technical Education</u>
6178.1	<u>Work-Based Learning</u>
6178.1	<u>Work-Based Learning</u>
6179	<u>Supplemental Instruction</u>
6181	<u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u>
6181	<u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u>
6183	<u>Home And Hospital Instruction</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6184	<u>Continuation Education</u>
6185	<u>Community Day School</u>
6185	<u>Community Day School</u>