



## **Chico Unified School District**

1163 East Seventh Street, Chico, CA 95928-5999  
(530) 891-3000

**Board Policy:**

**#5113.1**

**Section: 5000**

**Students**

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### **CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY**

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, and that students who are identified as chronically absent or truant receive appropriate support services and interventions as early as possible.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall consult with students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community agencies, as appropriate, to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy, including in relation to grade level and student subgroup patterns of chronic absence and truancy.

The Superintendent 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, including the use of bilingual aides and communication in the primary language used by parents/guardians; 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 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, including trauma-informed practices, 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 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.

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

To provide students with an opportunity to make up lost instructional time and offset absences, the Superintendent or designee may implement an attendance recovery program for students in grades transitional kindergarten-12. Any such attendance recovery program shall be operated in accordance with Education Code 46211 and as specified in the accompanying 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.



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The Superintendent 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.

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**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	<u>Explanation of absence</u>
5 CCR 420-424	<u>Record of verification of absence due to illness and other causes</u>
Ed. Code 1740	<u>Employment of personnel to supervise attendance</u>
Ed. Code 37223	<u>Weekend classes</u>
Ed. Code 44266	<u>Pupil Personnel Services credential</u>
Ed. Code 46000	<u>Attendance records</u>
Ed. Code 46010-46015	<u>Absences</u>
Ed. Code 46110-46120	<u>Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools</u>
Ed. Code 46140-46148	<u>Attendance in junior high and high schools</u>
Ed. Code 46210-46211	<u>Attendance recovery programs</u>
Ed. Code 48200-48208	<u>Children ages 6-18; compulsory full-time attendance</u>
Ed. Code 48225.5	<u>Work permits; entertainment and allied industries</u>
Ed. Code 48240-48246	<u>Supervisors of attendance</u>
Ed. Code 48260-48273	<u>Truants</u>
Ed. Code 48290-48297	<u>Failure to comply; complaints against parents</u>
Ed. Code 48320-48325	<u>School attendance review boards</u>
Ed. Code 48326	<u>Absence intervention teams</u>
Ed. Code 48340-48341	<u>Improvement of student attendance</u>
Ed. Code 48400-48403	<u>Compulsory continuation education</u>
Ed. Code 48900	<u>Grounds for suspension or expulsion</u>
Ed. Code 49067	<u>Unexcused absences as cause of failing grade</u>
Ed. Code 52052	<u>Accountability; numerically significant student subgroups</u>
Ed. Code 60901	<u>Chronic absence</u>
Gov. Code 54950-54963	<u>The Ralph M. Brown Act</u>
Pen. Code 270.1	<u>Chronic truancy; parent/guardian misdemeanor</u>

Policy Adopted: 02/21/07; 07/17/13; 09/02/15; 06/27/18; 05/14/25



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State	Description
Pen. Code 272	<u>Parent/guardian duty to supervise and control minor child; criminal liability for truancy</u>
Pen. Code 830.1	<u>Peace officers</u>
W&I Code 11253.5	<u>Compulsory school attendance; eligibility for aid</u>
W&I Code 256-258	<u>Juvenile hearing officer</u>
W&I Code 601-601.5	<u>Habitually truant minors</u>
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
Attendance Works Publication	<u>District Attendance Tracking Tool</u>
Attendance Works Publication	<u>The Power of Positive Connections: Reducing Chronic Absence Through PEOPLE: Priority Early Outreach for Positive Linkages and Engagement, 2014</u>
Attendance Works Publications	<u>Bringing Attendance Home: Engaging Parents in Preventing Chronic Absence, 2015</u>
Attendance Works Publications	<u>School Attendance Tracking Tool</u>
Attendance Works Publications	<u>For School Board Members: Frequently Asked Questions About Chronic Absence</u>
California Department of Education Publication	<u>School Attendance Improvement Strategies</u>
California Department of Education Publication	<u>School Attendance Review Boards Handbook &amp; Forms</u>
Court Decision	<u>L.A. v. Superior Court of San Diego County (2012) 209 Cal.App.4th 976</u>
CSBA Publication	<u>Research supported strategies to improve the accuracy and fairness of grades, July 2016</u>
CSBA Publication	<u>Seize the Data: Using Chronic Absence Data to Drive Student Engagement, March 2024</u>
Website	<u>CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services</u>
Website	<u>California Healthy Kids Survey</u>
Website	<u>California School Climate, Health, and Learning Survey System</u>
Website	<u>CSBA</u>
Website	<u>Attendance Works</u>
Website	<u>California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance</u>
Website	<u>California Department of Education</u>
Cross References	
<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
0400	Comprehensive Plans
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0420	School Plans/Site Councils
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0500	Accountability
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools
3515.3	District Police/Security Department
4119.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
4131	Staff Development
4219.41	Employees With Infectious Disease
5030	Student Wellness
5112.1	Exemptions From Attendance
5112.3	Student Leave Of Absence
5112.5	Open/Closed Campus
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113.11	Attendance Supervision
5113.12	District School Attendance Review Board
5113.2	Work Permits
5116.2	Involuntary Student Transfers
5117	Interdistrict Attendance
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5125	Student Records
5126	Awards For Achievement
5131	Conduct
5131.2	Bullying
5131.4	Student Disturbances
5137	Positive School Climate
5141.21	Administering Medication And Monitoring Health Conditions
5141.22	Infectious Diseases
5141.33	Head Lice
5141.6	School Health Services
5144	Discipline
5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
5145.3	Nondiscrimination/Harassment
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications



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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
5146	<i>Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students</i>
5147	<i>Dropout Prevention</i>
5148.2	<i>Before/After School Programs</i>
6020	<i>Parent Involvement</i>
6158	<i>Independent Study</i>
6164.2	<i>Guidance/Counseling Services</i>
6164.5	<i>Student Success Teams</i>
6172	<i>Gifted And Talented Student Program</i>
6173	<i>Education For Homeless Children</i>
6173.1	<i>Education For Foster Youth</i>
6173.2	<i>Education Of Children Of Military Families</i>
6173.4	<i>Education For American Indian Students</i>
6175	<i>Migrant Education Program</i>
6176	<i>Weekend/Saturday Classes</i>
6178	<i>Career Technical Education</i>
6178.1	<i>Work-Based Learning</i>
6179	<i>Supplemental Instruction</i>
6181	<i>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</i>
6183	<i>Home And Hospital Instruction</i>
6184	<i>Continuation Education</i>
6185	<i>Community Day School</i>