

IT'S THE LAW

CALIFORNIA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAWS

EC 48200 COMPULSORY FULL-TIME

Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years not exempted shall attend the public full time day school or continuation school or classes for the full time designated as the length of the school day by the governing board of the school district in which the residency of either the parent or legal guardian is located and each parent, guardian, or other person having control of charge of the pupil shall send the pupil to the public full-time day school or continuation school or classes for the full time designated as the length of the school day by the governing board of the school district in which the residence of either the parent or legal guardian is located

CCR TITLE 5, SECTION 421 – ABSENCE VERIFICATION

Any of the following persons may verify an absence due to illness or quarantine:

- a) A school or public health nurse.
- b) An attendance supervisor.
- c) A physician.
- d) A principal
- e) A teacher
- f) Any other qualified employee of a district or of a county superintendent of schools assigned to make such verification.

TRUANCY

EC 48260 – DEFINITION

Any pupil subject to compulsory full-time education or to compulsory continuation education who is absent from school without a valid excuse three 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 three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance supervisor or the superintendent of the school district.

EC 48260.5 – PARENT NOTIFICATION

Upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, the school district shall notify the pupil's parent or guardian, by first-class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

- a) That the pupil is truant
- b) That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the pupil at school.
- c) That parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to prosecution pursuant article 6 (commencing with Section 48290) of Chapter 2 of Part 27, violations and complaints.
- d) That alternative educational programs [are] available in the district.
- e) That the parent of guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the pupil's truancy.
- f) That the pupil may be subject to prosecution under Section 48264.
- g) That the pupil may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the pupil's driving privilege pursuant Section 13202.7 of the Vehicle Code.
- h) That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the pupil to school and attend classes with the pupil for one day.

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EC 48261 – TRUANT REPEAT

Any pupil who has once been reported as a truant and who is again absent from school without valid excuse one or more days, or tardy on one or more days, shall again be reported as a truant to the attendance supervisor of the superintendent of the district

EC 48262 – HABITUAL TRUANT

Any pupil is deemed an habitual truant who has been reported as a truant three or more times per school year, provided that no pupil shall be deemed an habitual truant unless an appropriate district officer or employee has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with a parent or guardian of the pupil and the pupil himself, after the filling of either of the reports required by Section 48260 or Section 48261.

EXCUSE FROM SCHOOL

EC 48205

- a) A pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:
1. Due to his or her illness.
 2. Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health office.
 3. For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic services rendered.
 4. For the purpose of attending funeral services of a 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 three days if the service conducted outside of California.
 5. For the purpose of jury duty.
 6. Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is a 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 or her religion, attendance at religious retreats or attendance at an employment conference when the pupil's absence has been 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.
- b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence which can be reasonably provided and upon satisfactory completion, shall be given full credit therefore. As the teacher or any class from which a pupil is necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

CCR, TITLE 5, SECTION 420

Absence due to any more of the following causes, when verified is allowable.

- a) Illness
- b) Quarantine directed by a county or city health officer
- c) Having medical, dental or optometrical services
- d) Attending funeral services is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside of California.