

## School Attendance Laws

### **Education Code, Section 48200 requires:**

1. Parents/guardians to send minors under their custody to school on a daily basis for the full length of the school day as established by the governing board of the district.
2. Minors six (6) to sixteen (16) years of age to attend compulsory full-time school on a daily basis for the full length of the school day (or district alternative programs as available).
3. Minors sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) years of age to attend continuation school on a daily basis for the full length of the school day (if not enrolled in traditional highschool or other alternative education program provided by the district).

Education Code, Section 48260-48263 provides definitions and referral procedures for:

1. Any student subject to compulsory attendance who is absent without a valid excuse more than three (3) days in one school year is truant.
2. Any student who has exceeded the unexcused absences or tardies as described above, and when an appropriate district employee has made conscientious effort to hold at least one (1) conference with the parent/guardian, and the student is deemed a habitual truant.
3. Any student defined as a habitual truant who continues an unacceptable pattern of unexcused absences or tardies may be referred to the district's School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Education Code, Section 48320-48325 establishes the powers and duties of the SARB as:
  1. The authority to require a written contract between the parent/guardian and the student with the board.
  2. The authority to refer the student and/or guardian/parent to appropriate community service agencies for counseling.
  3. The authority to request alternative school or program placement for the student within or outside of the district.
  4. The authority to recommend that the parent/guardian attend school with the student.
  5. The authority to refer the student and/or guardian to the juvenile justice system (Court).