

## Oak Grove Student Attendance FAQ's

Please read, sign, and return the slip on the reverse side.

**Why is school attendance important?** *“School attendance is a necessary part of the learning process. Students who are frequently tardy or absent fall behind in academics and miss important socialization concepts. Studies show children who are absent two or more days each school month achieve 25 percent less than their fellow students. Research supports a connection between positive student achievement and timely school attendance.”* (California State Board of Education - School Attendance Review Board Handbook). Simply put, if a student is not here, they cannot learn the challenging standards before them.

**What governs school attendance?** The state of California has laws governing your child's attendance. California compulsory education law (*Education Code 48200*) requires students up to 18 years of age to attend school. It states, in part, that students are *“subject to compulsory full-time education and shall attend for the full time designated as the length of the school day. A pupil shall not be enrolled for less than the minimum school day established by law.”*

**What is a “tardy”? When are tardies considered “excused”?** Tardies occur when your child arrives after the morning tardy bell rings at 8:15 a.m. AND when picking up your child prior to the end of the school day. The only excused tardies are for illness or doctor's appointments. If your child has a doctor's appointment, be sure to get a note and return it to school the following day so the school can quickly clear the tardy.

**What is an “excused absence” vs. an “unexcused absence”?** Per state law, absences are excused only if the child is ill or there is a death in the immediate family (1-3 day limit). All other absences are unexcused. Many parents are unaware that “going out of town” with their children during school is an unexcused absence, as are “family emergencies”. If a student is absent due to illness for more than three days, be sure to get a doctor's note and return it to school on the day the student returns so the absence(s) can be cleared quickly.

**What is TRUANCY?** *Education Code 48260* states in part that *“Any pupil who is absent from school without a valid excuse more than three days OR tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each of more than three days in one school year is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance supervisor or superintendent of the school district.”* *Education Code 48263* states in part that, *“If any pupil is irregular in attendance at school, the pupil may be referred to a school attendance review board.”* An example of this law would be a student with multiple tardies under 30 minutes. Another example would be excessive excused absences.

**SEE REVERSE SIDE**



**What happens if my child is categorized as a “truant”?** If your child is categorized as “truant”, you will first receive a letter in the mail. The letter will state the reasons why your child has been identified as a truant. If truancy continues to be an issue, you will receive a second letter and asked to meet with the attendance review officer (typically the principal). If attendance does not improve, you will receive a third letter and be referred to BARB (Burton Attendance Review Board) and/or SARB (School Attendance Review Board). Please note it is our goal to work with the parent(s) and student to resolve truancy issues before they reach the final step.

**What is SARB?** A formal SARB hearing is held at the Porterville Police Department which is mandated by the District Attorney’s Office. You will be placed on a formal contract which follows your child until they are 18 years of age or until they complete their K-12 education. Education Code places the responsibility of children’s regular attendance upon the parents and provides for a criminal complaint against the parents for failure to send their children to school regularly. If found guilty, parents are subject to a fine and/or court ordered counseling services. If you are receiving benefits under CalWORKS and your child does not meet attendance requirements, Assembly Bill 1542 requires the school district to notify the County Health and Human Services Agency. It is our goal to assist you in ensuring your child is at school, on time, daily.

**What is the Every Day Counts campaign?** The Every Day Counts campaign is a district-wide effort to recognize those students with positive attendance. Throughout the year, there will be various incentives, rewards, and acknowledgements for students who come to school every day. These recognitions are for individual students, classrooms, and campuses. We recognize the importance of working together to ensure our students have every opportunity to be successful in school. Attendance is a critical component to your child’s success.

**Helpful Tips:**

1. We understand there are times when students must miss school. If your child is sick or has a doctor’s appointment, be sure to call the school secretary and let her know why your child is absent. If your child has a doctor’s appointment, ask for a note and return it to school the following day. It is the parents’ responsibility to keep the school informed.
2. There are certain times of the school day that are critical to your child’s education. When appointments must be made during the school day, Wednesday afternoons are always best due to our early dismissal. When other times cannot be arranged, check with your child’s individual teacher to see when the best time would be to set those appointments.

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I have read the Oak Grove Student Attendance FAQ’s.

STUDENT’S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand should I have any questions or concerns regarding my child’s attendance, I may call the school office at any time at 784-0310.