

## TRUANCIES & UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

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### Some reasons for truancy include:

1. Going to work with a parent or other family member.
2. Baby-sitting, taking care of other family members.
3. Personal problems.
4. Car repair.
5. Waiting for service or repair people to arrive.
6. Missing the bus.
7. Taking a trip.
8. Overslept.
9. Coming to school more than 30 minutes late OR being pulled out more than 30 minutes early.
10. Any other reason not included in the Excused Absences section.

**NOTE:** Ten (10) excused absences is considered to be excessive. Education Code Sec. 48260 – *Any pupil subject to full-time education or to compulsory education who is absent from school without valid excuse more than three (3) days or **tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day without a valid excuse or three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is a truant and shall be reported to the attendance administrator or superintendent of the school district.***



For further information, please contact the VUSD SARB chairperson:  
Michelle Walsh  
MichelleWalsh@VistaUSD.org  
(760) 726-2170 Ext. 92184

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Vista Unified School District  
Student Support Services  
1234 Arcadia Ave.  
Vista, CA 92084  
(760) 726-2170 Ext. 92186

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## School Attendance Informational Guide



### Mission

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire each and every student to persevere as critical-thinking individuals who collaborate to solve real-world problems.

## School Attendance Laws: E.C. 48200 “Compulsory Education”

**All persons between 6 and 18 years of age are required by California law to attend school. Parents have the legal responsibility to ensure their child’s attendance**

**All absences must be verified within 72 hours or the absence becomes an unexcused absence or truancy.**

Excused Absences (with Verification)  
(Ed Code 46010, 46010.3, 48205)

1. Personal illness (school may require a doctor’s note verifying absence after 10 days)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a health officer.
3. Personal medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointment.
4. Funeral services for a member of the immediate family (limited to one day in the state and three days out of state).
5. Student serving on jury duty.
6. Exclusion for illness or medical appointment of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.
7. Personal court appearance by student (requires verification).
8. Prior Principal approval for student employment conference.

9. Employment of student in the Entertainment Industry for a maximum of up to five absences per school year.
10. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony (recommend three days advance notice to school).
11. Religious retreat (limited to four hours per semester)
12. Parent goes to or returns from deployment for a set period of time determined by superintendent or designee.
13. **Prior Principal approval** for reasons which may not be included elsewhere, but are pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

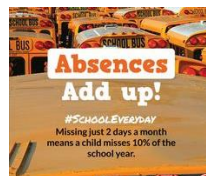
### IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

School absence is the most consistent *negative* predictor of gain in math and reading (SDCOE 2003).

Absenteeism in middle and high school can predict dropout rates.

Absenteeism influences not just chances for graduating but also for completing college.

Poor attendance in the first month of school can predict chronic absence for the entire year.



## WHAT IS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD (SARB)?

SARB was enacted by the California legislature in 1976 to:

1. Increase efforts to meet the needs of students with attendance problems
2. Promote the use of alternatives to the juvenile court system

The SARB process starts with the identification of attendance and/or behavior problems followed by classroom, school site and district level interventions.

SARB’s main task is to find solutions to unresolved student attendance and discipline problems by bringing together, on a regular basis, representatives of agencies that make up the board in a restorative process.

SARB surveys available community resources, determines the appropriateness of their services and makes recommendations to meet the needs of referred students.

SARB seeks to understand why students are experiencing attendance and behavior problems, and serves as a vehicle to correct those problems.

## WHO IS REFERRED TO SARB?

Under **Education Code, Section 48263:** Habitually truant students may be referred to SARB (Grades 1-12), as well as students with chronic attendance problems.