



SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

*Rob Collins
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September 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

Regular, punctual attendance directly correlates to academic performance. Good attendance is a shared responsibility between the student and the parent. Simi Valley Unified School District expects parents to send their children to school each day, on time, and to call in any absence to the child's school. Medical appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours or on non-school days, whenever possible.

California Education Code 48200 states "Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 ...is subject to compulsory full-time education..."

What is "truancy?"

All unexcused absences are classified as "truant." In the past, only un-cleared absences were classified as truant, whereas absences with a note were labeled unexcused. Many parents object to the term "truant", but the State of California does not differentiate between unexcused and "truant". Therefore, all absences for unexcused reasons are "truant." A student can also be considered "truant" if they are more than 30 minutes late to class for unexcused reasons.

What absences can be excused?

Both California and school district policies state that the following absences can be cleared with a phone call from a parent or guardian: student illness, student medical appointment, student attending a funeral for a close family member, and or court appearance.

Can absences for other reasons be excused?

Absences for family emergencies or official college visits (high school juniors & seniors) may be excused **ONLY** when a parent submits a written request one week **PRIOR** to the anticipated absence and receives approval from the school.

- Approval will be based on attendance record, academic progress, and reason for absence.
- If this procedure is not followed, the absence will be considered truant.

Can absences for family vacation be excused?

No. Absences for family vacation cannot be excused.

We want your child in school everyday that he/she is able to do so. Keep your child home if he/she has a fever or is vomiting. Help your child differentiate between not feeling like coming to school and being too sick to attend school.

Sincerely,

Theresa Garner
Coordinator, Student Support Services

