# Update Guidesheets

**December 2018 Update Guidesheet**

***Note: Descriptions below identify revisions made to CSBA's sample board policies, administrative regulations, board bylaws, and/or exhibits. Editorial changes have also been made. Districts and county offices of education should review the sample materials and modify their own policies accordingly.***

Absences and Excuses

(AR revised) Regulation updated to reflect NEW LAW (AB 2289) which (1) amends the definition of "immediate family" for the purpose of authorizing certain excused absences, (2) prohibits a district from requiring a physician's note for an absence by a parenting student to care for a sick child, and (3) clarifies that students may be excused from school, under specified conditions, for work in the entertainment or allied industry, participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience, or other reasons at the discretion of school administrators.
See AR 5113

# CSBA Sample
## Administrative Regulation
**Absences And Excuses**

AR 5113
**Students**

Excused Absences

***Note: Items #1-14 below reflect absences that are authorized by law to be considered as excused absences for purposes of enforcing the compulsory state attendance laws. Pursuant to Education Code 48205, absences specified in items #1-10 are considered absences in computing average daily attendance and do not generate state apportionment payments.***

Subject to any applicable limitation, condition, or other requirement specified in law, a student's absence shall be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205)

2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

3. Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointment (Education Code 48205)

4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the student's immediate family (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education Code 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48205, absence due to the illness or medical appointment of a student's child is counted as an excused absence. As amended by AB 2289 (Ch. 942, Statutes of 2018), Education Code 48205 prohibits the district from requiring a physician's note for such absences. See the section "Method of Verification" below.***

6. Illness or medical appointment of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or

designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)

a. Appearance in court

b. Attendance at a funeral service

c. Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony

d. Attendance at religious retreats for no more than four hours per semester

e. Attendance at an employment conference

f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization

8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302 (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

9. To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code 49701, and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (Education Code 48205)

Such absence shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code 48205)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

10. Attendance at a naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen (Education Code 48205)

***Note: Item #11 below should be included only if the Governing Board has adopted a resolution permitting absences for religious instruction or exercises. See the accompanying Board policy. If these absences are allowed, Education Code 46014 mandates that the Board adopt regulations governing students' attendance at religious exercises or instruction and the reporting of such absences. These regulations should include all of item #11 below and may be expanded to reflect district practice.***

11. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school (Education Code 46014)

(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

***Note: Education Code 46014 provides that absence for participation in religious instruction

or exercises will not be considered an absence for state apportionment purposes if the student attends school for at least the minimum school day and is not absent for this purpose on more than four days per school month. Pursuant to Education Code 46112, 46113, 46117, and 46141, unless otherwise provided by law, the minimum school day is generally 180 minutes for kindergarten, 230 minutes for grades 1-3, and 240 minutes for grades 4-12. For further information, see AR 6112 - School Day.***

Absence for student participation in religious exercises or instruction shall not be considered an absence for the purpose of computing average daily attendance if the student attends at least the minimum school day as specified in AR 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days per school month. (Education Code 46014)

(cf. 6112 - School Day)

12. Work in the entertainment or allied industry (Education Code 48225.5)

Such absence shall be excused provided that the student holds a work permit authorizing such work and is absent for a period of not more than five consecutive days and up to five absences per school year. (Education Code 48225.5)

13. Participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience (Education Code 48225.5)

A student may be excused for up to five such absences per school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code 48225.5)

***Note: As amended by AB 2289, Education Code 48205 clarifies that, in addition to the excused absences described in Education Code 48205 and 48225.5, students may be excused for other reasons at the discretion of school administrators.***

14. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances (Education Code 48205, 48260)

***Note: AB 2289 amended Education Code 48205 to revise the definition of "immediate family" as provided in the following paragraph.***

For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household. (Education Code 48205)

Method of Verification

***Note: Education Code 48205, as amended by AB 2289, prohibits the district from requiring a physician's note for absences due to the illness or medical appointment of the student's child. However, the district is authorized to require verification of other absences. The following section

should be revised to reflect district-adopted methods of verification and to specify employee(s) assigned to verify absences. 5 CCR 420-421 provide guidelines for verifying absences due to illness; quarantine; medical, dental, or eye appointments; or attendance at a funeral service of a member of a student's immediate family. 5 CCR 421 authorizes a student's absence to be verified by a school or public health nurse, attendance supervisor, physician, principal, teacher, or any other qualified district employee assigned to make such verification.***

Student absence to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note. (Education Code 48205)

For other absences, the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

When an absence is planned, the principal or designee shall be notified prior to the date of the absence when possible.

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, fax, email, or voice mail from parent/guardian or parent representative.

2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:

a. Name of student

b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative

c. Name of verifying employee

d. Date(s) of absence

e. Reason for absence

(cf. 5113.11 - Attendance Supervision)

3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in item #2 above.

4. Physician's verification.

***Note: The following optional paragraph provides a means of verifying an excuse for confidential medical services without inquiring into the nature of the medical services.***

a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may request a note from the medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.

***Note: The following optional paragraph provides that, after absences for illness on multiple occasions, the student may be required to bring a note from a physician to verify the illness. If a student does not have access to medical services in order to obtain such verification, the district may assist the student in obtaining the medical consultation if it is required.***

b. If a student shows a pattern of chronic absenteeism due to illness, district staff may require physician verification of any further student absences.

(cf. 5113.1 - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

Parental Notifications

At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall:

***Note: The requirement in item #1 below is for use by districts whose board has adopted a resolution permitting an excused absence for religious instruction or exercises. See the accompanying Board policy and item #11 in the section "Excused Absences" above.***

1. Notify parents/guardians of the right to excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their places of worship, or at other suitable places away from school property designated by a religious group, church, or denomination (Education Code 46014, 48980)

***Note: The requirement in item #2 applies to all districts. Districts that maintain only elementary grades should delete the reference to students in grades 7-12.***

2. Notify students in grades 7-12 and the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the district that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian (Education Code 46010.1)

3. Notify parents/guardians that a student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code 48205. (Education Code 48980)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

## ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

### Excused Absences

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205)

2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)*

3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointment (Education Code 48205)

4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family, which shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state (Education Code 48205)

Immediate family shall be defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister, or any relative living in the student's immediate household. (Education Code 45194, 48205)

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law (Education Code 48205)

6. The illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 5146 - Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)*

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)

a. Appearance in court

b. Attendance at a funeral service

c. Observation of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion

d. Attendance at religious retreats not to exceed four hours per semester

e. Attendance at an employment conference

f. Attendance at an educational conference offered by a nonprofit organization on the legislative or judicial process

**ABSENCES AND EXCUSES** (continued)

8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302 (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)*

9. To spend time with his/her immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code 49701, and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)*

10. Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction in accordance with district policy (Education Code 46014)

a. In such instances, the student shall attend at least the minimum school day.

b. The student shall be excused for this purpose on no more than four days per school month.

*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*

**Method of Verification**

When a student who has been absent returns to school, he/she shall present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having control of the minor, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code 46012; 5 CCR 306)

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, fax, email, or voice mail from parent/guardian or parent representative.

2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:

a. Name of student

b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative

c. Name of verifying employee

d. Date(s) of absence

**ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

e. Reason for absence

3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in item #2 above.

4. Physician's verification.

a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, district staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may contact a medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.

b. When a student has had 14 absences in the school year for illness verified by methods listed in #1-3 above, any further absences for illness shall be verified by a physician.