SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 11.1

Meeting Date: May 20, 2021	
Subject: Public Hearing: Adopt Revision of Board Policy 5113, Absences and Excuses	
 ☐ Information Item Only ☐ Approval on Consent Agenda ☐ Conference (for discussion only) ☐ Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated:) ☐ Conference/Action ☐ Action ☐ Public Hearing 	
<u>Division</u> : Legal Services	

<u>Background/Rationale</u>: Education Code 48205 establishes the conditions under which students may be lawfully absent from school, including personal illness or injury. District students face mental health challenges throughout their education. In order to recognize the mental health issues of students and help reduce stigmatizing attitudes of prejudice and exclusion, revisions to the policies concerning absences and excuses are necessary and specifically, the definition of "health reasons" in the context of excused absences. No prior updates to BP 5113 have occurred since its adoption in 2002.

Recommendation: Approve revision to Board Policy 5113.

Sacramento City USD Board Policy BP 5113 Students

Absences And Excuses

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parentsshall work with parents/guardians of children aged 6 to 18 are obligated to send and students to ensure their children to school unless otherwise provided by law. The Board shall abide bycompliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct the problems of excessivechronic absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance) (cf. 5112.1 Exncbsions

Sacramento City USD Board Policy BP 5113 Students

Absences And Excuses

The Governing Board believes that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. The Board shall work with parents/guardians and students to ensure their compliance with all state attendance laws and may use appropriate legal means to correct problems of chronic absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)
(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)
(cf. 5113.1 - policy, and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48205)

Board Resolution 3174 passed on Dec. 10, 2020 resolved that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education understands the definition of "health reasons" in the context of excused absences under California Education Code 48205 as including mental health reasons.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be considered excused subject to law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 46014)

Inasmuch as school attendance and class participation are integral to students' learning experiences, parents/guardians and students shall be encouraged to schedule mental and physical medical and other appointments during non-school hours if reasonably possible.

Site level attendance teams will take note of students with a pattern of absences. Students who are absent for mental and physical health related reasons will receive outreach and supportive interventions.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion closely links mental health and physical health; and the 2008 federal Mental Health

Students shall not be absent from school without their parents'/guardians' knowledge or consent, except in cases of medical emergency or, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 46010.1, for a confidential medical appointment.

The Board shall, by resolution entered into its minutes, approve reasonable methods that may be used to verify student absences due to illness or quarantine. (5 CCR 421)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

1740 Employment of personnel to supervise attendance (county superintendent)

37201 School month

37223 Weekend classes

41601 Reports of average daily attendance

42238-42250.1 Apportionments

46000 Records (attendance)

46010-46014 Absences

46100-46119 Attendance in kindergarten and elementary schools

46140-46147 Attendance in junior high and high schools

48200-48208 Children ages 6-18 (compulsory full-time attendance)

48210-48216 Exclusions fro

COURT DECISIONS

American Academy of Pediatrics et al v. Lungren et al (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Improving Student Achievement by Addressing Chronic Absence, Policy Brief, December 2010

WEB SITES

CSBA: http://www.csba.org

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