



Unexcused Absences and Truancy- Independent Study Contract Refusal

Research demonstrates that regular attendance plays an important role in student achievement. *Education Code 48205* allows absences from school to be excused only in these cases:

- Illness or medical appointments
- The funeral of an immediate family member
- Religious observance
- To spend time with an active armed services immediate family member about to be deployed or returning from deployment

By law, all other absences are considered unexcused, even if you notified the school in advance.

For absences of 5 to 15 days, Ed. Code and B.E. 6158 allow the option of Independent Study Contracts (ISC) so that your child can continue to learn and earn attendance credit through parent-supervised instructional activities prepared by the teacher. Since you have elected to remove your child from school for a period of time without an ISC, all of these absences will be marked as unexcused.

Ed. Code 48260.5

- *Any pupil subject to compulsory full-time education who is absent from school without valid excuse three full days in one school year and/or tardy or absent for more than any 30 minute period is a truant.*

Saugus employees must use appropriate legal means to correct problems of truancy, and we want to work with you and your child to ensure compliance with state attendance laws. Students with more than 3 days of unexcused absences are considered truant, and the parents and the student are both subject to be called before the School Attendance Review Board. Additionally, your child’s learning and his/her grades will be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance.

Should you have further questions about this policy, please contact your child’s site administrator or the Director of Student Support Services at the Saugus Union District Office.

I understand that my decision not to take advantage of an Independent Study Contract will result in my child being truant. This can lead to decreased learning, lower grades, and an appearance before the Student Attendance Review Board.

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date