

Students are referred to SARB by the school site when the school is concerned about the welfare and education of the student and the school's efforts to assist the family have been unsuccessful.

Evergreen School District and the School Attendance Review Board believe that students must attend school to learn and benefit from their education. Your child's education is our number one priority. We cannot fulfill our obligation if you, as a parent, do not get your son or daughter to school every day and on time. This is your legal requirement.

For additional information, please contact:

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SARB Chairperson  
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*Developed in conjunction with the Truancy Abatement Collaborative (TAC) of Santa Clara County*

## Facts related to truancy:

- Children are absent more often on Mondays and Fridays
- Children stay home more often on rainy days and the day after a school holiday
- Children who do not eat breakfast are absent more than children who do
- Students who are truant commit the majority of daytime crimes
- Children who start to miss school in Kindergarten will continue to miss school in later years
- A student's older brothers/sisters set attendance patterns in a family
- Children who are excessively absent suffer losses in educational achievement and perform poorly on tests
- Children who are excessively absent are at greater risk of dropping out and becoming involved in delinquent behavior.

# Evergreen Elementary School District



School Attendance  
Review Board  
(SARB)

OVERVIEW  
April 2008

### What is SARB?

**SARB** stands for the School Attendance Review Board. **SARB** is a group of concerned educators and community members, including law enforcement. The board helps students resolve attendance issues that have arisen at school. **SARB** works cooperatively with school personnel, parents, guardians and students to help improve student attendance.

### What is the SARB process?

The **SARB** process begins at the school site once it has been determined that a student has attendance issues. The school will do the following:

- Call or send home written notices to the parent
- Meet with the teacher, parent and student
- Set up an attendance contract with the school, parent and student.

If the student's attendance has not improved after these steps are taken, the student may be referred to **SARB**.

### What is the law regarding school attendance?

California State Law requires that parents send their children to school. **Education Code, Section 48200** states that students ages 6 to 18 **must** attend school.

**Education Code, Section 48260** states that a student is considered a "habitual truant" when he/she is absent from school without a valid excuse for three days or was tardy or absent for more than any-thirty minute period during one school day without a valid excuse on each of three days or any combination thereof.

**Education Code, Section 48263** asserts that truant students may be referred to **SARB**.

**Education Code, Section 48293 & Penal Code Section 272** states that parents are required to send their children to school or face charges in court.

**Education Code, Section 48293(a)** asserts that a parent or guardian may be held responsible if a student does not follow the **SARB** contract.

### What happens at the SARB meeting?

The **SARB** meeting is an opportunity for parents, guardians and students to participate in developing solutions to the student's attendance problems. **SARB** members will make an effort to gain a clear picture of the problems and will then decide on a course of action to assist the student, family and school in resolving the problems. **SARB** may recommend an attendance contract, counseling services, or modifications to the student's schedule or program. They may also decide to make a referral to the District Attorney's Office.

### What happens if the SARB's recommendations are not carried out?

If the **SARB**'s recommendations are not followed and the student's attendance does not improve, the Board may recommend that you and your child be referred to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Most families elect to work with **SARB** to improve their student's attendance difficulties. By working together, the families and the schools receive the support they need to help correct student attendance problems.

### What happens once the case is referred to the District Attorney?

The District Attorney reviews the documentation and files with the court under **Education Code, Section 48293**. A hearing before a judge is scheduled and the parent is notified.

The judge may impose sanctions such as:

- Fines
- Loss of financial aide (i.e., CALWorks)
- Community service
- A delay in the student obtaining a driver's license for up to a year
- Student work permit will be revoked.

If the truancy issues have been resolved, the judge may also dismiss the case.