



### **What can SARB do for students and their families?**

- Help students understand the importance of school, and the consequences for failure to comply with the law.
- Offer counseling programs for the student and/or family.
- Offer parenting classes to support parents.
- Recommend changes in the student's program that might be unusual but necessary.
- Direct a student transfer to an alternative school or program.
- Request assistance from other county agencies and programs (Probation, Sheriff, Children's Services, counseling and mental health).
- Recommend the establishment of needed resources.
- Coordinate assistance from volunteers to help students get to school.
- Refer for academic tutoring.
- Refer chronic attendance problems to the District Attorney Truancy Mediation Program or other appropriate agency for further assistance.

### **RELATED STATE & LOCAL LAWS**

**Education Code 48200.** Students between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend school full-time, unless otherwise exempt.

**Education Code 48260.** A student is truant when he/she is absent from school without an excuse three full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute period during the school day three times.

**Education Code 48262.** Definition of an habitual truant.

**Education Code 48263.** If any minor pupil in any district is an habitual truant or is habitually insubordinate or disorderly during attendance at school, the pupil may be referred to SARB.

**Education Code 48263.5.** SARB referral to a truancy mediation program.

**Education Code 48263.6.** Definition of a chronic truant.

**Education Code 48292 & Penal Code 272.** Parents are responsible to send their children to school or they will face charges in court.

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

**Vehicle Code 13202.7.** The court may revoke or delay the issuance of a driver's license to a student between the ages of 13 and 18 if he/she is a habitual truant.

**Penal Code 270.1.** Misdemeanor penalty for parent of a student considered to be a chronic truant.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Pupil Services-LAUSD**

333 S. Beaudry Ave., 29th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**Phone:** (213) 241-3844

**Fax:** (213) 241-6858

*LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT*

# **School Attendance Review Board**



**A district-based/community program that provides intensive guidance and coordinates community service delivery to students with school attendance problems.**

### **Mission Statement**

*The teachers, administrators and staff of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) believe in the equal worth and dignity of all students and are committed to educate all students to their maximum potential.*

### **What is SARB?**

The School Attendance Review Board or SARB was established by the California Legislature in 1975 for the purposes of helping students who are not going to school, and keeping students and parents out of the juvenile court system.

In order to meet the needs of students and their families, the legislation provides for a multi-agency SARB that includes the following agencies:

- School site/district representatives
- Children and Family Services
- Probation
- Law Enforcement
- Parents or Community Representatives
- Community-Based Organizations
- Child Welfare & Attendance Personnel
- School Guidance Personnel
- District Attorney's Office
- Health care personnel

### **Who is referred to SARB?**

- Students with chronic attendance problems which have not been resolved through school and community efforts.

### **The SARB Process**

The SARB process begins at the school, where students with chronic attendance problems are identified and monitored. The school can do the following as forms of intervention:

- Phone calls or letters to the parent
- Parent meetings with the counselor or teacher
- Attendance contract with the student, school, and parent
- School Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings

### **What happens at the SARB hearing?**

- A school staff member shares the attendance record.
- SARB members ask the student and parent to explain why the student is not going to school.
- SARB members ask the student and parent questions to help identify the problem.
- SARB members make recommendations to assist the family and student.
- The student and parent sign a SARB attendance contract.

### **What does the SARB contract mean?**

- The contract is a promise that the student will go to school every day, be on time and follow school rules.
- The student/parent also promises to follow all other conditions on the contract, which may include participating in a parenting class, attending counseling sessions, signing in with a school official, attending tutoring, and other conditions.

- Violations of the contract could result in a referral to the District Attorney for prosecution.
- Student(s) and parent(s) may be asked to return in 30 days for a case review.

### **Facts related to poor attendance...**

- Parents and guardians strongly influence a child's attendance patterns.
- Children's absence patterns are established as early as kindergarten.
- Children's older siblings frequently set attendance patterns in a family.
- Children are absent more frequently on Mondays and Fridays.
- Children stay home more often on rainy days, inclement weather, and the day after a school holiday.
- Children who ride the bus to school are absent more than children who walk.
- Children who do not eat breakfast are absent more than children who do.
- Children who are excessively absent suffer losses in educational achievement, perform poorly on tests, and are at greater risk of dropping out.
- Children who are truant commit the majority of daytime burglaries and may become involved in delinquent behavior.