

Golden Valley Charter School of Sacramento

Attendance Regulation

Attendance is very important to a student's success in school. In California, public charter school's students attend school 175-180 days a year. Every day is significant.

School Attendance Required by Law (Ed. Code 48200, 48290)

The State of California and Golden Valley Charter School believe that education is essential for children and for our future. The State Law requires parents/guardians of children ages 6-18 to send their children to school, unless otherwise provided by law. Parents who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution.

Reporting Absences

If a student is absent, parents or guardians are required to call the school attendance line at (916) 987-6641 **each** day that the child is absent. Absences not cleared within 48 hours will be recorded as unexcused.

Absences Allowed by Law (Ed. Code 46010, 48205)

It is important for parents to inform the school whenever their child is absent. However, under state law, an absence is considered "excused" only for the following reasons:

- ✓ **Illness**- A child is too ill to attend school if he or she has a contagious condition, a temperature of over 100, symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea, or written orders from a doctor to stay home. **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, **without using fever-reducing drugs**. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- ✓ **Appointments**- Student's medical, dental or chiropractic appointments (Please bring written verification).
- ✓ **Funeral Services**- for immediate family (1 day in State, 3 days out of State).
- ✓ **Court Appearance**- Verified with documentation.
- ✓ **Religious Holiday**- With a note and approval by the school prior to the holiday. By law, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed 8 hours per year (Ed. Code 45194).

Absences for most other reasons are considered unexcused. Some examples of unexcused absence are: out of town, personal day, family vacation, other family member's illness, car problems.

Truancy (Ed. Code 48260, 48273)

State law defines a truant as a student who has 3 or more unexcused absences in one school year. **Truant students and their parents are in violation of the law and are subject to prosecution and other penalties.**

Attendance Meeting (Ed. Code 48320-48325)

We have implemented a Student Attendance Review Team (SART). This team is designed to meet with parent/guardians of children who have exceeded the allowable amount of excused or unexcused absences. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the child's attendance record and develop a plan for the child's regular participation in school and improved attendance.

Referral to Sacramento County District Attorney

If a child's attendance does not improve after a SART meeting, or if the parents fail to attend a required SART meeting, the parents and the child may be referred to the District Attorney's office for prosecution through the court system. **Students 12 years of age and older may be referred to the juvenile court for adjudication.**

Truancy/ Excessive Absence Notification

The statewide average absence rate for typical childhood illness is 5 days per school year. Detailed below is the process that Golden Valley Charter follows when a child is truant or has excessive absences.

of Total Absences

Consequence

Five (5)

First letter sent to parent/guardian. This letter includes information regarding a possible future Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting if absence pattern continues.

Ten (10)

Second letter sent to parent/guardian requiring the parent/guardian to call the school to schedule a Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting.

Thirteen(13) or more

Third letter sent to parent/guardian with a scheduled Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting. Possible letter from the District Attorney and/or referral to the District Attorney.

Tardy policy

School begins at 8:15a.m. each day. It is during the first two hours of each school day that our students participate in “Main Lesson”. This time is extremely valuable and crucial to your student’s education. All students are expected to arrive at school on-time. A student is considered tardy if he/she is late to school (after 8:15). A student must report to the office if s/he is late. *In some circumstances, the school will require a SART meeting for excessive tardiness.*

Tardiness is only excused if a student has a medical, dental, legal appointment or a death in the family. All excused tardies require appropriate documentation.

Independent Study

Independent Study is not available.