

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular punctual school attendance in a public school is not only an expectation, but is the law in the state of California. Students enrolled in a public school are mandated, through their parents, to comply with California Education Codes for attendance. In addition to legislated requirements, the standards set forth by BSFCS expect that students arrive promptly and are prepared for class on a daily basis. The charter school is a school of choice and enjoys educational flexibility; however, such flexibility does not extend to an ability or desire to modify California law. BSFCS is, therefore, bound by the same state law as other public schools regarding school attendance.

Excused Absences: Absence from school shall be excused only for health reasons, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board (State Board of Education) policy and (California State) administration regulations. An excused absence entitles students to opportunity to make up missed tests and assignments that may be reasonably provided by the classroom teacher within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the classroom teacher for full credit. It is the teacher's discretion to determine the reasonably equivalent assignments (not necessarily identical).[Education Code 46010, 48216, 48205]. *BSFCS notes that much of the school's project-based curriculum is designed for a collaborative social context in the classroom that is difficult to replicate outside of school.*

Truancy: Any student who is absent from school without a valid excuse for three full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than any 30-minute-period during the school day without a valid excuse on three occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, is truant and shall be reported to the administration. [E.C. 48260 (a)] **BSFCS begins school promptly at 8:30. If a student will be absent, the parent/guardian should notify the front office via phone call or email.** BSFCS may send the **first truancy notification** to the parent/guardian after the above qualifications have been met.

BSFCS may send the **second truancy notification** to a parent/guardian upon second notification of truantancy to the administration on the fourth absence from school without a valid excuse or tardy or absence for more than any 30 minute period during the school day without a valid excuse. BSFCS will make a conscientious effort to hold at least **one conference** with the parent/guardian of the student. [E.C. 48261]

If a student is deemed a habitual truant if reported as truant three or more times per school year and BSFCS has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference. **BSFCS may send the third truancy notification to the parent/guardian for habitual truancy.** [E.C. 48262]

Any student who has had absences due to illness that have been verified equal to or surpassing 10% of the school days to date or of the total school days for the

current academic year, must obtain written verification from a medical expert in the related field of the illness. Failure to provide verification will result in those additional absences as being unexcused.

Truancy Mandates & Penalties: Any parent/guardian who fails to ensure his/her student's attendance in school, unless excused or exempted, is guilty of an infraction and can be sanctioned by a court. If any minor student is deemed to be a habitual truant, or is irregular in school attendance, as defined above, or is habitually insubordinate or disorderly during school attendance at school, the student may be referred to a School Attendance Review Board (SARB). [E.C. 48263] A SARB referral consists of a hearing that includes the parent/guardians of the minor. The goal of SARB is to keep students in school and provide a meaningful education experience. SARB does have the power, when necessary, to refer students to Community School or to refer parents/guardians to the County Truancy Board or directly to the District Attorney.

Site Actions:

The BSFCS Governing Board commits itself to the following course of action in order to ensure an effective learning environment for each student and to maintain the fiscal viability of the school:

- The school hours and the importance of regular, punctual school attendance shall be communicated to each family.
- Staff shall carefully maintain a record of all absences, tardies, and the reasons why they occur and follow the outlined actions above for notification, parent/guardian conference, and SARB referral.
- In addition, a Student Success Team meeting may be held for students/parents/guardians to assess the causes of the attendance problem and to develop a plan to improve the student's attendance for the following conditions:

Excessive absences (30-minute-periods or more of missed instruction) – 10 or more days;
Excessive general tardiness (arrival after 8:30 am) – 15 or more days.

- If excessive absences continue, the administration will confer with parents/guardians regarding BSFCS as the school of choice.

GB approved 11/29/18