

DISTRICT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD

Note: The following administrative regulation is for use by districts that have established their own school attendance review board (SARB), in addition to or instead of a county SARB, as authorized pursuant to Education Code 48321. Requirements for the composition and basic duties of the SARB are contained in Education Code 48320-48325. In addition, the following administrative regulation reflects information and best practices in the California Department of Education's (CDE) School Attendance Review Board Handbook, available on CDE's web site. The district should revise the following regulation to reflect district practice and, if applicable, procedures established by the county SARB.

Upon receiving a referral of a student with attendance and/or behavior problems, a designated member of the school attendance review board (SARB) shall review the case and may meet with school personnel to determine whether the school has provided sufficient information about the student's attendance record or behavior. If the referral is complete and is an appropriate matter for the SARB to consider, the SARB chairperson shall provide written notification to the student's parents/guardians stating the reasons a referral has been made, explaining the SARB process, advising whether additional information is needed, and describing school-level interventions that have previously been attempted.

The SARB shall meet with the student and his/her parents/guardians, give them an opportunity to present their understanding of the problem, and discuss the school and/or community resources appropriate for the student's circumstances.

Note: The CDE's School Attendance Review Board Handbook clarifies that SARBs are subject to the open meeting requirements of the Brown Act (Government Code 54950-54963), including notice requirements, but that meetings may be held in closed session when considering matters related to individual students.

Any SARB meeting to consider matters related to an individual student shall be held in closed session unless the parent/guardian requests, in writing, that the meeting be held in open session.

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The SARB shall have access to relevant student records, but shall not provide access to others without written consent of the student's parent/guardian. (Education Code 49076)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

For the limited purpose of making a proper disposition of the referral of a student, the SARB may issue subpoenas pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure 1985-1997 or may request the juvenile court to issue subpoenas to require the attendance of the student, parents/guardians or other person having control of the student, the school authority referring the student, or any other person who has pertinent or material information concerning the matter. The SARB shall not issue any subpoena that includes a request for production of written materials, but may request a juvenile court to issue such subpoena for the production of written materials. (Education Code 48263, 48321.5)

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Note: The CDE's School Attendance Review Board Handbook provides a sample School Site, Student and Parent Agreement that may be used to formalize the directives of the SARB.

The SARB shall issue written directives stating the responsibilities of all persons involved, detailed resource referrals, and follow-up dates for the school's reports on the student's progress. The written directives shall include an agreement that the student will attend school or improve classroom behavior as applicable, and shall be signed by the student, his/her parents/guardians, the SARB chairperson, and the Superintendent or designee.

When referred by the SARB, a student may be assigned to a community day school or a county community school. (Education Code 1981, 48662)

(cf. 6185 - Community Day School)

At any time it deems proper, the SARB may require the student or his/her parents/guardians to furnish satisfactory evidence of participation in any available community services that the student or parents/guardians have been directed to use. (Education Code 48263)

Based on progress reports submitted by the school, the SARB may terminate the agreement upon the successful completion of the terms of the agreement, extend the time for completion of the agreement, or schedule another meeting with the student and his/her parents/guardians.

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 48263, if the SARB determines that available community services cannot resolve the student's problem or if the student and/or the student's parents/guardians have failed to respond to the SARB's directives, the SARB may notify the district attorney and/or the probation officer, if the district attorney or the probation office has elected to participate in the truancy mediation program. If the district attorney or the probation office has not elected to participate in the truancy mediation program, the SARB may direct the County Superintendent of Schools to request a petition to the juvenile court, upon which the juvenile court will hear all evidence related to the petition and will bring about a proper disposition of the case. The following paragraph may be revised to reflect the appropriate authority to be notified.

If the student's attendance or behavior problems cannot be resolved by the SARB, or if the student and/or the student's parents/guardians continually and willfully fail to respond to SARB directives or the services provided, the student or parents/guardians shall be referred to the appropriate agency, including law enforcement agencies when necessary. (Education Code 48263, 48290-48291)