**SIERRA-PLUMAS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Compulsory School Attendance

1. Education Code 48200 – **Attendance**. “Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years not exempted under the provisions of this chapter or Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 48400) is subject to compulsory full-time education. Each person subject to compulsory full-time education and each person subject to compulsory continuation education not exempted under the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 48400) shall attend the public full-time day school or continuation school or classes and for the full time designated as the length of the school day by the governing board of the school district in which the residency of either the parent or legal guardian is located and each parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the pupil shall send the pupil to the public full-time day school or continuation school or classes and for the full time designated as the length of the school day by the governing board of the school district in which the residence of either the parent or legal guardian is located.

 Unless otherwise provided for in this code, a pupil shall not be enrolled for less than the minimum school day established by law.”

Education Code Section 48205 states that the site Principal, or the SARB may require verification by a school official or physician if absences for health reasons appear excessive and may require prior notice from parents for absences excused for justifiable personal reasons, such as non-emergency appointments or permitted religious instruction or

retreats. (*EC* 46014, 48205)

If your child has three unexcused absences and/or tardies, he or she will be considered truant. SPJUSD's guidelines for attendance are as follows:

1. After the first reported truancy of three (3) absences/tardies, a written *Letter of Concern* from the school is mailed.

2. After the 4th unexcused absence in the same school year, a written warning from the school will be mailed.

3. After the 5th unexcused absence in the same school year, another written warning from the school will be mailed.

4. If a student is reported absent for the 6th time in the same school year, the student and parents/guardians will be referred to our School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

1. Education Code 48205 – **Absences and Excuses**. Students may be excused from school for justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, or an employment conference. The entire text of **48205 is as follows:**

 (a) Notwithstanding Section 48200, a pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:

 (1) Due to his or her illness.

 (2) Due to quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.

 (3) For the purpose of having medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic services rendered.

 (4) For the purpose of attending the funeral services of a member of his or her immediate family, so long as the absence is not more than one day if the service is conducted in California and not more than three days if the service is conducted outside California.

 (5) For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law.

 (6) Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the pupil is the custodial parent.

 (7) For justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, an appearance in court, attendance at a funeral service, observance of a holiday or ceremony of his or her religion, attendance at religious retreats, attendance at an employment conference, or attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization when the pupil's absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative pursuant to uniform standards established by the governing board.

 (8) For the purpose of serving as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Section 12302 of the Elections **Code.**

 (b) A pupil absent from school under this section shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed during the absence that can be reasonably provided and, upon satisfactory completion within a reasonable period of time, shall be given full credit therefor. The teacher of the class from which a pupil is absent shall determine which tests and assignments shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the tests and assignments that the pupil missed during the absence.

 (c) For purposes of this section, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed four hours per semester.

 (d) Absences pursuant to this section are deemed to be absences in computing average daily attendance and shall not generate state apportionment payments.

 (e) "Immediate family," as used in this section, has the same meaning as that set forth in Section 45194, except that references therein to "employee" shall be deemed to be references to "pupil."

**Absences and Acceptable Excuses**

Education Code Sections 46010 and 48205 identify the acceptable reason for “excused” absences for which the school receives funding (A.D.A.). Students who are “excused” must be given opportunity to complete work which is reasonably close to, but not necessarily identical, to missed work. The types of absences identified in these codes include the following:

* Personal illness (school may require doctor’s note and will require doctor’s verification if school deems absences are excessive.)
* Quarantine under the direction of health officer.
* Personal medical appointment. This requires a doctor’s note.
* Funeral services of parent, sibling, grandparent, brother-in-law, or any relative living in the child’s immediate household (limit is one day in the state, and three days out of state).
* Student serving on jury duty.
* Exclusion for medical reasons (not to exceed 5 school days).

An absence for religious observance or exercise may be considered “excused” if the district governing board has adopted such a policy. Education Code Section 46014 identifies parameters for this type of absence:

* For moral or religious instruction
* Limited to four days per month
* Student must attend minimum school days hours
* Recommend three days advance written request from parent

Education Code Section 48205 identifies acceptable reasons for “excused” absences, although the school does not receive funding. Students must be given opportunity to complete work which is reasonably close to, but not necessarily identical, to missed work.

* Personal court appearance (requires verification).
* Prior principal approval for employment conference.
* Observance of a religious holiday or ceremony (recommend three days advance notice to school).
* Religious retreat (limited to four hours per semester).
* He or she is the custodial parent of a child who is ill or has a medical appointment during school hours.

Education Code Section 48205 states that the site Principal, or the SARB may require verification by a school official or physician if absences for health reasons appear excessive and may require prior notice from parents for absences excused for justifiable personal reasons, such as non-emergency appointments or permitted religious instruction or retreats. (EC 46014, 48205)

Students who are 18 years of age or older or who are emancipated may provide their own excuses for absences, and the Principal may require verification from a physician or designated school official when necessary. (EC 46012