

- Recommend needed resources.
- Coordinate assistance from volunteers to help students get to school.
- Refer for academic counseling.
- Refer chronic attendance problems to the District Attorney Truancy Mediation Program or other appropriate agency for further assistance.

Lowell Joint School District SARB Process

3rd unexcused/unverified/tardy more than 30 minutes:

- *Classified as truant.*
- *Letter sent home notifying parent of truancy.*

5th unexcused/unverified/tardy more than 30 minutes:

- *Second letter sent home notifying parent of truancy.*

9th unexcused/unverified/tardy more than 30 minutes:

- *Third letter sent home notifying parent of truancy and conference scheduled at school site.*
- *SART Contract.*

12th unexcused/unverified/tardy more than 30 minutes:

- *Referral to SARB by the school site.*
- *Parent and student summoned to appear at a SARB Hearing.*
- *SARB Contract.*

What is an Excused Absence?

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons: 1. Personal illness (Education Code 48205) 2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer (Education Code 48205) 3. Medical, dental, optometrical, or chiropractic appointments (Education Code 48205) 4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family (Education Code 48205) 5. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including but not limited to: (Education Code 48205) a. Appearance in court b. Attendance at a funeral service c. Observation of a holiday or ceremony of his/her religion d. Attendance at religious retreats not to exceed four hours per semester 6. Participation in religious instruction or exercises in accordance with district policy: (Education Code 46014) AR 5113 (b)

Related State and Local Law

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.



**Lowell Joint
School District**

A Tradition of Excellence Since 1906

School Attendance Review Board

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



11019 Valley Home Avenue
Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 943-0211
www.ljsd.org

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 the student and their families, the legislation provides for a multi-agency SARB that includes the following agencies:

- Children and Family Services
- Public Social Services
- Probation
- Law Enforcement
- Parents or Community Representatives
- Child Welfare & Attendance Supervisors
- School Counseling Personnel
- District Attorney's Office
- School Nurse and Health Agency

Successful SARBs...

- Have a strong commitment from participating agencies and schools.
- Effectively utilize school personnel in a problem-solving approach.
- Use consistency in coordination of referrals and efforts.

Who is referred to SARB?

Students with chronic attendance and/or behavior 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 and/or behavior problems are identified and monitored. The school can do the following as a form of intervention:

- Phone calls and/or letters to parent.
- Parent conferences with school personnel.
- Attendance and/or behavior contract with the student, school, and parent.
- School Attendance Review Team (SART) meetings

What happens at a 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 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 parenting class, attending counseling sessions, signing in with a school official, attending tutoring, and other conditions.
- The attendance and/or behavior of the student will be monitored on a regular basis; the family may be asked to return to the SARB for a review of the case.
- Violation of the contract could result in a referral to the District Attorney for truancy mediation and prosecution.

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, health services).