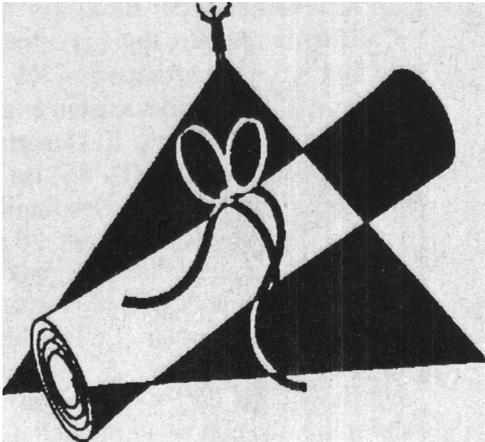


Abolish Truancy



STUDENTS

"Our greatest resource for the future!

We want them to be proud and confident. The classroom will bring them *success*.

STAY IN SCHOOL

Encourage other students to stay in school.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District is serious about reducing truancy in our community. Truancy begins when a student is absent from school frequently. Truancy is the first sign of trouble and often a gateway to crime. High rates of truancy are linked to high daytime burglary and vandalism. Studies show that today's truant is tomorrow's criminal (National School Safety Center News Services Newsletter, 1996).

We need parents' help to reduce truancy. Parents have the greatest influence in getting their children to go to school every day. However, children do not always do what parents tell them to do. When this happens parents may seek help from other relatives and neighbors. The school district is committed to connecting families to counseling services when parents and students request assistance. Please call your school if you need help.

The school district has zero tolerance for truancy. We are working with law enforcement agencies and the Department of Public Social Services to identify students who are habitual truants. The following measures will be taken to address truancy problems:

1. The Cities of San Bernardino and Highland established a Daytime Curfew Ordinance in 1996. This ordinance allows the City Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, and School Police to cite students who are loitering in the streets and public places during school hours. Students who are cited must appear with a parent in the Juvenile Traffic Court for any daytime loitering violations.

2. The California Welfare Reform requires students in families that participate in Cal Works programs to attend school daily. The Department of Social Services (DPSS) will discontinue aid to families when their students have 20 full-day absences or are tardy or have period absences on 20 days during the school year. School districts are mandated to report these families to DPSS. We will comply with this mandate.

3. The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) will cite parents per California Education Code 48293(a) who do not comply with California's Compulsory Education laws. Fines of up to \$500.00 may be imposed on negligent parents upon conviction.

Join us in keeping students in school. A good education will open doors to a bright future for our students. Your help is appreciated!