

Golden Valley Charter Schools
Attendance Regulation

Attendance at school each day, for the full school day, is essential to your child's academic and social well-being. In our Waldorf inspired charter school, much of the information is provided orally or is experiential and hence is impossible to make up outside of school. Being absent for even part of a day can cause children to experience gaps in their learning/social life.

Additionally, Golden Valley does not receive state funds for an absent (excused or unexcused). ADA funding is approximately \$43 per child per day. Golden Valley experiences a revenue loss greater than \$200,000 every year due to absences. Parents have the power to change this.

Reporting Absences

If a student is absent, parents are required to call the school attendance line for the appropriate campus before school begins **each** day that the child is absent. Absences **not cleared** within 48 hours will be recorded as unexcused (truant).

- Orchard Attendance Line: 916-987-1962
- River Attendance Line: 916-987-6641
- Tahoe Attendance Line: 530-717-3019

Absences Allowed by Law (Ed. Code 46010, 48205)

It is important for parents to inform the school whenever their child is absent. However, under state law, an absence is considered "excused" only for the following reasons:

- **Illness** - A child is too ill to attend school if he or she has a contagious condition, a temperature of over 100^o Fahrenheit, symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea (currently **or** in the past 24 hours), or written orders from a doctor to stay home. **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, **without the use of fever-reducing drugs**.
- **Appointments** - Student's medical, dental or chiropractic appointments (bring written verification).
- **Funeral Services** - Immediate family (1 day in state, 3 days out of state).
- **Court Appearance** - Verified with documentation.
- **Religious Holiday** - With a note and approval by the school prior to the holiday. By law, attendance at religious retreats shall not exceed 8 hours per year (Ed. Code 45194)

Examples of unexcused absences (but not limited to): out of town, personal day, family vacation, car problems.

Truancy/Excessive Absence Notification

- The 1st absence letter will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) at : **5 absences**
- The 2nd absence letter will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s) at : **10 absences**
- The 3rd absence letter will be sent to parent(s)/guardian(s), requiring a mandatory SART (Student Attendance Review Team) meeting at: **15 or more absences**

Copies of attendance records and all correspondence and written communication about attendance related problems will be placed in the student's academic records.

Chronic Illness

If your student has a diagnosed chronic illness, please contact the front office.

School Attendance Review Team (SART) Meeting (Ed. Code 48320-48325)

Student Attendance Review Team (SART) is designed to meet with parent(s)/guardian(s) of children who have exceeded the allowable amount of excused or unexcused absences. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the child's attendance record and develop a plan for the child's regular participation in school and improved attendance. A contract will be signed at the meeting. By law, employers must allow parent(s)/guardian(s) to attend school meetings pertaining to their child.

Independent Study

Independent Study is available for students under certain circumstances. Please see our Independent Study Policy for details.