

TUOLUMNE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Eligibility Division of Policies and Procedures

Subject: CalWORKs School Attendance

Effective Date: 10/06/2006

Section No:

Revision Date: 04/30/2012 ([Update County Website](#))

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Background	EAS MPP 40.105.5 directs the county to require households with school age children to provide verification of regular school attendance after approval of CalWORKs application and during the renewal. A household who fails without good cause to provide verification of regular school attendance or whose child (ren) fails to attend school regularly is subject to a financial penalty.
Attendance Requirements:	All children (including MFG) ages 6 through 17, who are in the Assistance Unit (AU), must attend school regularly. This applies to children in all schools: public, private and home.
Exceptions to School Attendance Requirements:	Children ages 6 through 17 are not required to meet the school attendance requirements if the child meets one of the following criteria: • Enrolled in Cal-Learn • Foster Care • SSI
Definition of Regularly Attending:	Each school district is responsible for defining regular attendance.
Good Cause	A child, who fails to attend school regularly or a parent who fails to provide verification of regular school attendance, as defined by the school, is granted good cause if verification from a third party determines the child and or family is experiencing mental health, physical health, or domestic abuse that interferes with the ability for the child to attend school or the parent to provide required verification of school attendance.
Verification Process:	Acceptable attendance is verified by the school district after CalWORKs benefits are granted and during the annual redetermination by using the follows forms. • TC CW-2 Status Release of Information form is completed by the parent and forwarded to the child's school. The form is located in Omni-Fill; or • A written statement from the school verifying regular attendance; or • The School Attendance Review Board (SARB) provides notification the child is under review for failure to attend school regularly.
Penalty:	<u>Child under Age 16:</u> Reduce the grant by an amount equal to the parent(s)/caretaker relative's portion. If both parents are in the home, reduce the grant by the amount equal to both parents. <u>Child 16 and over:</u> Reduce the grant by an amount equal to the child
Penalty Continued:	ACL 98-35 Q and A Q - #1 – An AU is composed of a mother, with a separate child, and an

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C-IV instructions	unmarried father of a common child. If the mother fails to have her separate child immunized or attend school regularly, can the financial penalty be imposed on the unmarried father as well? Answer – No. While AB 1542 specifies that the penalty for failure to comply with the school attendance requirement is that the needs of “all adults” in the AU not be considered, only the parent(s) or caretaker relative is held responsible and has the ability to have the penalty removed. Since the unmarried father is not the <u>parent</u> or <u>caretaker relative</u> of the separate child, he is not penalized. Q # 4- Are stepparents penalized for failure to comply with the CalWORKs immunization or school attendance requirement? No, unless he/she is the aided caretaker relative. A - Under AB 1542 the parent(s) (natural or adoptive) or <u>caretaker relative</u> is penalized for failure to comply with the immunization and, if the child is under age 16, the school attendance requirement. Only when the stepparent in the AU is the caretaker relative of the child (ren), can his/her needs not be considered. <u>Adult or Child is Age 16 or Older:</u> • Update the Work Registration Detail page: Change the child’s exemption code to Mandatory in the Status field • Update the School Attendance Status field to Not Attending School, the date it was reported and the Status Begin Date • Enter a Non-Compliance for the child/adult, type “Failure to Provide”, reason “School Attendance” with a begin date the first of the next month that 10 day notice can be provided. • Notify WTW an adult/ or a child 16 or older is not attending school by screen printing the Work Registration Detail screen that shows the child is “Mandatory”, providing a copy of the school form, or an Inter-Unit Memo.
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