



Board Resolution No. 3174: Excused Absences for Mental Health Reasons

Board Meeting
December 10, 2020
Agenda Item No. 7.2

Presented by: Isa Sheikh

Mental Health Days

- Excused absences for students who are having mental issues of any kind
- Laws passed statewide in Oregon (HB 2191) and Utah (HB 234)

Existing Attendance Policy

- California Education Code 48205:
“A pupil shall be excused from school when the absence is:
(1) Due to the pupil’s illness.”
- SCUSD Board Policy 5113:
“Absence from school shall be excused only for **health reasons**, family emergencies and justifiable personal reasons, as permitted by law, Board policy and administration regulations.”

How is Health Reason defined?

- The 2008 federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) put care and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders on equal footing – or “parity” – with physical health care.
- California Healthy Kids Survey of SCUSD students indicated that on average 1 in 5 students has considered suicide in the past 12 months
- In order to destigmatize mental health, it’s absolutely essential to treat it as on par with physical health.

Resolution No. 3147

- Directs the Superintendent to create a board policy that clarifies the definition of “health reasons” in the context of Board Policy 5113 to include mental health

Q & A