



COLUSA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Press Release

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Colusa County “School Attendance Review Board” Reinstated

The Colusa County School Attendance Review Board (SARB) has been reinstated by the Colusa County Office of Education for the 2023-24 school year. For more than two decades, Colusa County has been without a SARB, but with the recent trend of chronic absenteeism in the County and the state of California as a whole, Superintendent of Schools Michael P. West felt its revival essential. Using a multi-agency collaborative and comprehensive approach, SARB will assist students and families in identifying and working through barriers in order to return to school and reduce chronic absenteeism.

Chronic absenteeism occurs when a student misses 10% or more of the school days in a school year. This includes excused and unexcused absences, and suspensions. In 2022, 26.3% of students in Colusa County and 30% of students statewide were chronically absent. Moreover, on average 8 million students nationwide are chronically absent each school year. Consequently, children are at risk of falling behind academically, resulting in poor reading abilities in elementary and middle school students, and decreased graduation rates for those in high school.

“Some absences are unavoidable, and when these instances arise it is important to maintain open communication with your child’s teacher,” stated Superintendent West. “Consistently attending school is a fundamental skill crucial for achieving success in both academic endeavors and life beyond the classroom.”

Colusa County SARB consists of three tiers of intervention, focused on establishing a positive and engaging relationship with students and their families. Board Members include departments within the County of Colusa and the Colusa County Office of Education, the Colusa and Williams Police Departments, Colusa County Advocates for Parents & Children (CAPC), and County residents. For more information about the SARB process, visit the Colusa County Office of Education website at www.ccoe.net.