



East Side Union High School District

What to Expect from the S.A.R.B Process

What is SARB?

SARB stands for the School Attendance Review Board. SARB is a group of concerned community members and educators who help students resolve school attendance or behavior problems. SARB becomes involved after the school and the school district have made a maximum effort to assist you and your student with school problems.

Who can I expect to see at a SARB?

- A SARB is a group of people including but not limited to school personnel, community members, SJPD and representatives from community agencies.
- SARB works cooperatively with parents and/or guardians and the referred student to make the school become aware of better ways to help the student and family as needed.
- Students are referred to SARB by the school site when the school is concerned about the welfare and education of the student and the school's efforts to assist the family have been unsuccessful.

What can SARB do for families?

- SARB explores possible ways of improving student attendance and behavior by recommending changes in the school program, by helping you improve your outlook about school, or by encouraging changes in conditions outside the classroom which may affect attendance or behavior at school.
- East Side Union High School District and SARB believe that students must attend school to learn and benefit from their education. Your son/daughter's education is our number one priority. We can not fulfill our obligation if you as the parent do not get your son or daughter to school. This is a parent's legal requirement.

Why do students have to go to school?

- California State Law requires that parents send students to school. This, of course, is based on a very essential national value: effective self-government is made possible through educated citizens! One of the most important reasons for your student to complete his/her education through high school graduation is that a high school diploma is generally required for employment.
- If your student does not finish school, then he/she may carry the stigma of being a dropout for the rest of his/her life.
- Regular school attendance is essential for your student's education. Your son/daughter can not learn to read, write, or prepare for college, world of work, and adult life without an education.

What happens if the SARBs recommendations are not carried out?

- If the SARBs recommendations are not carried out, SARB may recommend that you and your student are referred to the District Attorney or the Probation Department which may file for Juvenile Court action.
- Most families elect to work with SARB and other community based organizations to improve their student's difficulties.
- By working together, families and schools receive the support they need to help correct student attendance and behavior problems.
- At the SARB hearing the parent and student will sign a JCR (Juvenile Contact Report). This is a police citation to be enforced only if the student fails the SARB contract.
- The citation is sent to the District Attorney, who prosecutes the student, and refers the student to Juvenile Probation Traffic court for sanctions.

Are there any expenses, legal or otherwise that you have to worry about because you have been referred to SARB?

- NO! There are no costs to you for a SARB conference.
- However, if the attendance problems are not resolved, the court may intervene. This can result in costly fines.

Is this a court hearing?

- NO! Although the SARB meeting is a serious matter, and is considered a legal meeting, the SARB meeting is not designed as a Court hearing.
- Failure to comply with the SARB recommendations and agreements may lead to a court hearing and intervention.

What happens at the SARB?

A SARB conference provides an opportunity for students and parents or guardians to participate in a solution process when the student's attendance or behavior problems are presented to the SARB. SARB members will make an effort to gain a clear

picture of the problem and will then decide on a course of action to assist the student, family, and school in resolving the problem. SARB may recommend a behavior contract, counseling services, modifications in the school schedule or program, or make a referral to the District Attorney's Office, Probation Department and/or Juvenile Court.

If the case goes to juvenile court, then what?

During a juvenile court hearing the Judge may impose several sanctions such as:

- impose fines
- assign weekend work
- establish curfews
- suspend, revoke or delay driver's license

There are a number of things that the Juvenile Court can do:

- Your case can be referred back to the school district, with specific instructions for further action.
- Your student can be placed on probation at home for a specified period of time.
- Your son/daughter can be declared a ward of the court which can result in long-term supervision by the Juvenile Court with possible placement in a setting other than the home, such as a foster home or 24 hour care facility.
- You, the parent, can be prosecuted and fined or imprisoned.
- Student's driver's license can be revoked.
- Loss of financial aid.
- Student work permit can be revoked.
- Your case can be dismissed.

Does the student then have a record as a result of the referral to the Juvenile Court?

The answer is "yes." The Probation Department and the Juvenile Court are obligated to open a file with your student's name, address, phone number, etc., and indicate in this folder what action was taken.

"All of this seems very severe. Do you mean to tell me that all of this can happen because my son/daughter misses school or does not behave?"

YES! And you can avoid these problems with a little determination and work. As stated earlier, the East Side Union High School District and the County of Santa Clara take student attendance and behavior very seriously. Our obligation is to teach students. We can not fulfill our obligation if you as the parent do not get your student to school. The School Attendance Review Board is here to provide assistance, suggestions, and conditions as may be necessary to help you and your student.

It boils down to this one question which only you can answer: "Is it really worth the hassle and, is it really worth the risk?"

Only you and your student can make this decision. The SARB is here to support you in finding a new direction which will involve the least hassles and the least number of risks having a negative affect on your student's future.

WE WANT YOUR STUDENT IN SCHOOL AND READY TO LEARN!!!

PLEASE WORK WITH US TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN



If you have further questions regarding what to expect at the SARB hearing, you may contact:

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