



Chino Valley Unified School District's School Attendance Review Board (SARB) was named one of 27 Model SARBs in the state in April. Pictured are some of the District's SARB panel members (left to right): Stephanie Johnson, Director, Student Support Services; Danny Johnson, Probation Officer; Luis Padilla, District Attendance Liaison; Margarita Santibanez, District Attendance Liaison; Genoveva DeLaTorre, Outreach Advisor; Jocelyn Jones, Probation Officer; Ofelia Verdugo, Coordinator, Child Welfare and Attendance.

District's attendance program named 2017 Model School Attendance Review Board

"It takes a village to raise a child" is an often quoted adage.

Chino Valley Unified School District has adopted that idea and brought together a panel of parents and professionals to keep children in school and learning. CVUSD's attendance program is one of 27 in the State and four in San Bernardino County to be recognized this spring as a 2017 Model School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

The attendance programs are being recognized for innovative and effective practices to reduce suspensions, expulsions, and chronic absenteeism.

The Model SARBs will serve as mentors to other school districts, helping them to develop their own strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism.

The Model SARBs were honored April 19 at the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance State Conference in Tahoe City, California.

All the school programs chosen for the Model SARB designation use a three-tiered approach to keep students in school, including rewarding improved attendance and creating an engaging school climate with low suspension rates, identifying attendance issues early and providing personalized help to students and their families, and referring the most persistent attendance problems to a SARB that uses combined resources to solve the attendance problem.

Since fall 2006, Chino Valley Unified has employed the Attendance Counts! campaign to make students and parents aware that illness should be the only reason a student isn't in school. The campaign includes school banners, provided by Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center and Pomona Valley Health Centers. The school year before the campaign began, CVUSD's student attendance rate was 95.69%. In the 2015-2016 school year, CVUSD had a 96.53% attendance rate, higher than the State average of 94.89%.

CVUSD's SARB panel has several members:

- Parents and guardians
- District Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Coordinator, who participates in all SARB hearings and is the SARB chairperson. The CWA Coordinator facilitates the hearing and works closely with all panel members in identifying resources available to help address barriers to attendance.
- District Attendance Liaison and Community Outreach Advisor, who completes home and school visits to address student attendance, and complete weekly attendance queries that are reviewed with the District's CWA Coordinator and Student Support Services Director.
- Representatives of San Bernardino County Probation Department, who provide resources to parents and students and refer students to the Probation Department's intervention classes, such as Anger Manager, Truancy, Drug and Alcohol. Additionally, the probation officers provide donations that are used as incentives for students who have shown improvement following a SARB hearing.
- Helping Our People Everyday (HOPE) Resource Center Case Managers, who participate on a rotational basis to attend all SARB hearings. They provide family assistance by connecting families with available community resources, provide ongoing case management, and complete referrals for recommended services.
- School Resource Officers from the Chino Police Department and the Chino Hills Sheriff's Department, who attend SARB hearings for their assigned school. In addition, a captain from Chino Institution for Men (CIM) and a retired lieutenant from Chino Institution for Women (CIW) participate in CVUSD SARB hearings. CIW donates bikes to students who have shown improvement following a SARB hearing.

- School site administrators, who participate in SARB hearings when a student from their school site has been referred to SARB. The administrators provide a summary of students' academic performance, resources and interventions already in place, descriptions of students' behavior in school, and other relevant information regarding students' overall attitude towards school.
- CVUSD nurse, who is present at all SARB hearings. The school nurse provides parents with information on how school sites can support students with specific health conditions when health issues are the barrier to attendance. The school nurse also refers students and their families to CVUSD Health Clinic when students and/or parents need medical assistance but are unable to go to a medical provider.
- Department of Behavioral Health Clinical Supervisor, who attends SARB hearings and works directly with parents in completing forms necessary to begin a referral for behavioral health counseling services.
- San Bernardino County Deputy District Attorney, who explains attendance laws to students and parents, and answers questions regarding attendance laws posed by SARB panel members. The Deputy District Attorney also completes home and school visits with the CWA Coordinator, attendance liaison, outreach advisor, and probation officers on a quarterly basis.
- A representative from San Bernardino County's Public Defender Office, who is invited to all SARB hearings and attends in cases where a student has been a part of the Let's End Truancy Program.