

Students

Attendance and Truancy

Definitions

Truant - A "truant" is a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.

Valid cause for absence - A child may be absent from school because of illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the student's control as determined by the Building Principal or such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of the student.

Chronic or habitual truant - A "chronic or habitual truant" is a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 10 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

Truant minor - A child to whom supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic, intervention and remedial services, alternative programs, and other school and community resources have been provided and have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy or have been offered and refused.

Compulsory School Attendance

Whoever has custody or control of a child between the ages of 7 and 17 years of ages (unless the child has graduated from high school) must cause the child to attend the District school wherein the child is assigned, except as provided herein or by State law. Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

Truancy

The Superintendent shall direct the appropriate School District staff to develop diagnostic procedures to be used for identifying the cause(s) of unexcused student absenteeism. The diagnostic procedures shall include, but not be limited to, interviews with the student, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), and any school official(s) or other people who may have information.

The following supportive services may be offered to truant or chronically truant students:

- parent-teacher conferences
- student and/or family counseling
- information about community agency services
- Educational Service Region

The School District will determine if the student is a truant, chronic or habitual truant, or a truant minor. If truancy continues after supportive services have been offered, the Building Principal shall notify the Superintendent and may call upon the resources of outside agencies, such as the juvenile officer of the local police department or the truant office of the Educational Service Region of DuPage County. The Board of Education, Superintendent, School District administrators, and teachers shall assist and furnish such information as they have to aid truant officers.

No punitive action, including out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, or court action shall be taken against a chronic truant for his or her truancy unless available supportive services and other school resources have been provided to the student.

Absence Notification

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must: (1) upon their child's enrollment, provide telephone numbers to the Building Principal and update them as necessary, and (2) authorize all absences and notify the school in advance or at the time of the child's absence.

If a student is absent without prior authorization by the parent(s)/guardian(s), the Building Principal or a designee shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their child's absence within 2 hours after the first class by telephoning the numbers given.

Student Employment

The Superintendent shall develop procedures, and present them to the Board of Education for its approval, for excusing from attendance those students necessarily and lawfully employed.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/26-2a, 5/26-9, and 5/26-12 [Ill. Rev. Stat., ch. 122, ¶¶ 26-2a, 26-9, 26-12, and 26-13].

Hamer v. Board of Education, 383 N.E.2d 231 (2nd Dist. 1978).

CROSS REF.: 6.110, 7.80, 7.190

Adopted: October 11, 1995

Revised: