



ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY POLICY

Regular school attendance is an important ingredient in students' academic success. Excessive absences interfere with students' progress in mastering knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from high school prepared for higher education and the workforce. To support academic success for all students, the district will partner with students and their families to identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. The district will utilize a continuum of strategies to reduce student absence including but not limited to:

1. Notification of student absence to parent or guardian;
2. Development and implementation of an absence intervention plan, which may include supportive services for students and families;
3. Counseling;
4. Parent education and parenting programs;
5. Mediation;
6. Intervention programs available through juvenile authorities;
7. Referral for truancy if applicable.

DEFINITION OF TRUANCY AND EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

1. Definition of 'habitual truant' changed from days to hours. The new definition, which included tardiness, is:
 - a. Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse;
 - b. Absent 42 or more hours in one month without a legitimate excuse;
 - c. Absent 72 or more hours in one year without a legitimate excuse.
2. Definition of 'excessive absences', which includes tardiness, is:
 - a. Absent 38 or more hours in one school month with or without a legitimate excuse;
 - b. Absent 65 or more hours in one school year with or without a legitimate excuse.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN A CHILD HAS EXCESSIVE ABSENCES:

When a student is excessively absent from school the following will occur:

1. The district will notify the student's parents in writing within seven days of the triggering absence;
2. The student will follow the district's plan for absence intervention; and
3. The student and family may be referred to community resources.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN A CHILD IS HABITUALLY TRUANT:

When a student is habitually truant, the following will occur:

1. Within seven days of the triggering absence, the district will do the following:
 - a. Select members of the absence intervention team;
 - b. Make three meaningful attempts to secure the student's parent or guardian's participation on the absence intervention team.
2. Within 10 days of the triggering absence, the student will be assigned to the selected absence intervention team;
3. Within 14 days after the assignment of the team, the district will develop the student's absence intervention plan;
4. If the student does not make progress on the plan within 61 days or continues to be excessively absent, the district will file a complaint in the juvenile court.

