

TRUANCY

Introduction and Definitions

The District's policy on student truancy shall stress early prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences rather than imposition of punitive measures for students. Referral to legal authorities normally shall be made only when local resources are exhausted.

“Truant” shall mean a child age five to eighteen, inclusive who have four unexcused absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year.

“In attendance” shall mean a student if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent.

Remediation of Truancy

School personnel shall seek cooperation from parents or other persons having control of such child and assist them in remedying and preventing truancy. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations which will detail the following school district obligations under the district's truancy policy:

1. Notify parents annually of their obligations under the attendance policy.
2. Obtain telephone numbers for emergency record cards or other means of contacting parents or other persons having control of the child during the school day.
3. Establish a system to monitor student attendance.
4. Make a reasonable effort by telephone and by mail to notify parents or other persons having control of the child when a child does not arrive at school and there has been no previous approval or other indication which indicates parents are aware of the absence. *(Note: Persons who in good faith give or fail to give notice pursuant to this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such notice or failure to give notice.)*

The required mailed notice shall include a warning that two unexcused absences from school in one month or five unexcused absences in a school year may result in a complaint filed with the Superior Court alleging the belief that the acts or omissions of the child are such that the child's family is a family with service needs.

TRUANCY

5. Identify a student as “truant” when the student accumulates four unexcused absences in any month or ten in a school year.
6. Appropriate school staff meet with parents of a child identified as truant, to review and evaluate the situation, within ten days of such designation.

Students so identified may be subject to:

- a. retention in the same grade to acquire necessary skills for promotion or
 - b. a requirement to complete a summer school program successfully before being promoted to the next grade.
7. File a written complaint with the Superior Court, not later than fifteen calendar days after the failure of a parent/guardian to attend the meeting (item #6) or upon the failure to cooperate with the school attempting to solve the truancy problem, alleging that the acts or omissions of a child identified as “truant” are such that the student’s family is a “family with service needs,” if the parent or person having control of the child fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the child’s truancy problem.
 8. Provide coordination of services and refers “truants” to community agencies which provide family services.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-184 Duties of parents (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)
- 10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA 00-157) and P.A. 11-136
- 10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised, 1995, PA 95-304)
- 10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.
- 10-221(b) Board of Education to prescribe rules.
- Campbell v New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984).
- Action taken by State Board of Education on January 2, 2008, to define “attendance.”*

Administrative Regulations to Policy #5113.2
Truancy

A “truant” means a child age five to eighteen inclusive who has four unexcused* absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year. An “at risk student” means any such child who has 20 or more unexcused absences within a school year.

The school administration will make a concentrated effort to prevent and remedy truancy in its early stages for students who are found to be truant. This will include:

1. Appropriate school staff will meet with the parent (or other person having control) of the child who is truant within ten (10) school days after the child’s fourth unexcused absence in any one month or tenth unexcused absence in one school year.
2. The designated staff shall coordinate service with and referrals of children to community agencies providing child and family services.
3. Parents/Guardians of each child age five to eighteen inclusive shall be notified in writing of obligations of the parent pursuant to 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
4. Annually at the beginning of the school year and upon enrollment during the school year, obtain from the parent a telephone number or other means of contacting such parent during the school day.
5. Whenever a child age five to eighteen inclusive fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no indication has been received by school personnel that the child’s parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the pupil’s absence, a reasonable effort to notify, by telephone, and by mail the parent or such other person shall be made by the school personnel or volunteers under the direction of the school personnel.
6. The superintendent may file a written complaint with Superior Court pursuant to said Connecticut General Statutes Sections 46b-149 for each truant enrolled in the schools under his/her jurisdiction not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after, the parent (or other person having controls) fails to:
 - a. Attend the required meeting to evaluate why the child is truant, or
 - b. Cooperate with the school in trying to solve the truancy problem.

Regional School District No. 7

Administrative Regulations to Policy #5113.2
Truancy

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-184 Duties of Parents
10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general
46b-149 Family with service needs

*Absence from school and/or class(es) falls into two categories:

- a. Excused – Absence from school and/or class(es) due to illness, death in the family, religious holy day, emergency medical or dental treatment or other such unavoidable circumstance shall be classified as excused. Such absences must be approved by the administration and the parent/guardian.
- b. Unexcused – Any absence from school which does not meet the criteria established in the Excused definition, including truancy from school.

The third class cut in any one year-long course and two cuts in a semester course shall result in a loss of credit for that course.