

# Policies

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## Westerly Public Schools Truancy Policy

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**No. 2031**

Westerly Public Schools is committed to providing an education for its students that will ensure future success and fulfillment. Crucial to the attainment of that education is regular school attendance. Said regular school attendance is necessary not only for the imparting of knowledge and skills, but also for the taking on of a "work ethic" that will be of major importance in future career, personal, and social endeavors. Due to the aforementioned importance of regular school attendance, Westerly Public Schools will pro-actively address any and all factors that negatively impact on a student's regular school attendance. Existent policy governing absence (nonattendance for reason not administratively approved) at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will be at times augmented by the involvement of the Westerly Juvenile Hearing Board. When deemed appropriate by school administration in consultation with a representative of the Juvenile Hearing Board, a case of truancy will be referred to the Westerly Juvenile Hearing Board for its possible action. That action may take the form of such sanctions as curfew, mandatory community service, counseling, and/or other appropriate measures. Failure by the student to comply with any or all sanction(s) imposed by the Juvenile Hearing Board will result in a referral to Family Court.

Adopted: September 17, 1997

Amended: June 3, 2009