Kentucky School Attendance Law Update - July 2024

The Kentucky Directors of Pupil Personnel (KDPP) are committed to ensuring the academic success of all students in the state. We are writing to inform parents and guardians of an important update to Kentucky's School Attendance Law (KRS 159.150), which will come into effect starting the next school year. This update specifically impacts all families with school-aged children in the Commonwealth, as outlined in House Bill 611.

Under the new legislation, the Director of Pupil Personnel will now be required to notify the County Attorney's office when a student accumulates 15 or more unexcused absences throughout the academic year. This change is part of ongoing efforts to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance and to provide additional support to families to help prevent chronic absenteeism.

We understand that there are times when absences are unavoidable. Families are encouraged to refer to the student handbook to familiarize themselves with the policies regarding excused absences. Our primary goal remains to collaborate with families to support students' educational journeys and to address any barriers to consistent school attendance.

Regular school attendance is crucial for academic success, and we urge families to plan accordingly to ensure their children attend school consistently. Should your child approach the threshold of 15 unexcused absences, it is important to be aware of the potential involvement of the county attorney's office as mandated by this new law.

We are here to support you and your child in achieving educational success. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this update, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school administration or to your district's DPP office.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Together, we can work to provide a bright and successful future for all students in Kentucky.