Policy: JHB

Section: Section J - Students

Truancy

TRUANCY

If a student is absent without a valid and verified parent/guardian (parent) excuse or if the student leaves school or a class without permission of the teacher or administrator in charge, the student shall be considered truant. A "habitual truant" shall be defined as a student of compulsory attendance who has four total days of unexcused absences from school in any one month or 10 total days of unexcused absences from school during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be counted toward a designation of habitually truant.

In order to reduce the incidents of truancy, parents of all students will be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year of their obligation to ensure that their children of compulsory attendance age attend school. Parents shall be required to acknowledge in writing awareness of their obligations and to furnish the school with a telephone number or other means of contacting them during the school day.

The school shall establish a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences. When a student fails to report on a regularly scheduled school day or class period, and school personnel have received no indication that his or her parent is aware of the absence, school personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel will notify the parent.

A plan may be developed for a student who is at risk of being declared habitually truant with the goal of assisting the child to remain in school.

In accordance with law, the district may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while truant. Truancy from school and class may result in consequences as outlined in Board policy and/or court referral through the local judicial system. Classification as a habitual truant is cause for judicial proceedings to be initiated to enforce compulsory attendance.

LEGAL REFS.:

C.R.S. 22-33-104
C.R.S. 22-33-107
C.R.S. 22-33-108
1 CCR 301-78 - Standardized Calculation for Counting Student Attendance and Truancy
C.R.S. 22-14-101 et seq. (dropout prevention and student re-engagement)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(n) (length of school year, instruction & contact time)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(a) (conduct and discipline code)

C.R.S. 22-32-138 (6) (excused absence requirements for students in out-of-home placements)
C.R.S. 22-33-101 et seq. (School Attendance Law of 1963)
C.R.S. 22-33-105 (3)(d)(III) (opportunity to make up work during suspension)
C.R.S. 22-33-108 (judicial proceedings to enforce school attendance laws)
C.R.S. 22-33-203 (educational alternatives for expelled students and determination of credit)
1 CCR 301-78 Rules 1.00 et seq. (standardized calculation for counting student attendance and truancy)

CROSS REFS.:

EBCE, School Closing, and Cancellations
IC/ICA, School Year/School Calendar/Instruction Time
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages
JFABE*, Students in Foster Care
JFC, Student Withdrawal from School/Dropouts
JH, Student Absences and Excuses (Except for Truant, Suspended, and/or Expelled Students)
JK, Student Discipline
JKD/JKE, Suspension/Expulsion of Students (and Other Disciplinary Interventions)
JLIB, Student Dismissal Precautions

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