

LAWS, REGULATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

South Carolina Code of Regulation No. 43-274

“The State Board of Education recognizes that truancy is primarily an educational issue and that all reasonable, educationally sound, corrective actions should be undertaken by the school district prior to resorting to the juvenile justice system”

“When a child is determined to be truant, Reg. 43-274 requires school officials to develop a written intervention plan to address the student’s continued absence in conjunction with the child and parents.”

Educational Neglect

Child abuse or neglect may exist when parents do not provide their children with education as required by law. *However, a child’s absences from school may not be considered abuse or neglect unless the school has made efforts to bring about the child’s attendance, and those efforts were unsuccessful because of the parents’ refusal to cooperate. § 63-7- 20.*

Truancy

A child ages six (“6”) to seventeen (“17”) years of age (on or before September 1st) with three (“3) consecutive, full-day, unexcused absences or a total of five (“5”) full-day, unexcused absences.

Chronic Absenteeism

A student grades K-12 who misses 50% or more of the instructional day for any reason (excused or unexcused absences, suspensions, etc) or 10% of the enrollment period.