

STUDENTS

Student Attendance

Regular attendance is essential if a student is to make use of the educational opportunities the District offers. Regular attendance develops dependability and responsibility in the student and contributes to academic achievement. Parent(s)/guardian(s) or those having legal custody or control of students are responsible for their children's regular school attendance.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are strongly urged to schedule vacation trips at times corresponding to the normally scheduled vacation periods of the school year. If a student will not be attending school due to a family vacation, trip, etc., parent(s)/guardian(s) are requested to complete the District's appropriate release form.

Make-up work will be made available for those students who miss class, but the District shall not be responsible for the educational progress of the student who fails to maintain regular attendance habits. The District will not be liable for the progress of the student who is removed from the school for extended periods of time contrary to law or good educational needs.

Attendance and Truancy

Definitions

Truant - A "truant" is a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.

Valid cause for absence - A child may be absent from school because of illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the student's control as determined by the School Board or such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of the student.

Chronic or habitual truant - A "chronic or habitual truant" is a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for five (5) percent or more of the previous one hundred eighty (180) regular attendance days.

Truant minor - A child to whom supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic, intervention and remedial services, alternative programs, and other school and community resources have been provided and have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy or have been offered and refused.

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Truancy

The School District will determine if the student is a truant, chronic or habitual truant, or a truant minor. The Superintendent shall direct the appropriate School District staff to develop diagnostic procedures to be used for identifying the cause(s) of unexcused student absenteeism. The diagnostic procedures shall include, but not be limited to, interviews with the student, his/ her parent(s)/guardian(s), and any school official(s) or other people who may have information.

The following supportive services may be offered to truant or chronically truant students:

- parent-teacher conferences;
- student and/or family counseling; and
- information about community agency services

If truancy continues after supportive services have been offered, the Building Principal shall refer the matter to the Superintendent. The Superintendent may call upon the resources of outside agencies, such as the juvenile officer of the local police department or the truant office of the Regional Office of Education of Suburban Cook County. The School Board, Superintendent, School District administrators, and teachers shall assist and furnish such information as they have to aid truant officers.

No punitive action, including out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, or court action shall be taken against a chronic truant for his or her truancy unless available supportive services and other school resources have been provided to the student.

Absence Notification

A student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must: (1) upon their child's enrollment, provide telephone numbers to the Building Principal and update them as necessary, and (2) authorize all absences and notify the school in advance or at the time of the child's absence.

If a student is absent without prior authorization by the parent(s)/guardian(s), the Building Principal or a designee shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of their child's absence within two (2) hours after the first class by telephoning the numbers given.

Student Employment

The Superintendent shall develop procedures and present them to the School Board for its approval, for excusing from attendance those students necessarily and lawfully employed.