

Document Status: Draft Update

Students

7:70 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 (including mental or behavioral health of the student), observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, attendance at a civic event, PRESSPlus1 family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board, other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety.

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 5 percent or more of the previous 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.

Compulsory School Attendance

This policy applies to individuals who have custody or control of a child: (a) between the ages of six (on or before September 1) and 17 years (unless the child has graduated from high school), or (b) who is enrolled in any of grades kindergarten through 8 in the public school regardless of age. Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by a physician licensed in Illinois, or any other state, to practice medicine and surgery in any of its branches, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed physician assistant), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, and (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day. Students absent for a valid cause may make up missed homework and classwork assignments in a reasonable timeframe.

Unauthorized Unexcused Vacations

Parents are highly discouraged from taking vacations outside of the District's planned vacation times. Time out of school can be harmful to a child's progress, growth, and success in school. If a parent decides to take an extended vacation or a vacation when school is scheduled, it is not the responsibility of the teaching staff to prepare work for the trip.

Students who are on vacation for more than ten consecutive, regularly scheduled school days will be

disenrolled. Upon return, parents will need to re-register their child(ren). Student grades will reflect missed assignments, tests, labs, performances, and other class learning activities.

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 or 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
- 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 North Cook Intermediate Service Center. The Board of Education, 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 the 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 designee shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child's absence within 2 hours after the first class by telephoning the numbers given.

Student Employment

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

Monitoring [PRESSPlus2](#)

Pursuant to State law and policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, the Board updates this policy at least once every two years. The Superintendent or designee shall assist the Board with its update.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/22-92 and 5/26-1 through 18.](#)

[705 ILCS 405/3-33.5](#), Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

[23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.242 and 1.290.](#)

CROSS REF.: 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 7:80 ((Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: September 10, 2002

REVISED: April 7, 2022

REVIEWED: April 7, 2022

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/26-1 and 5/26-2a, amended by P.A. 102-891, eff. 1-1-23, requiring that, subject to Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines, middle and high school students be permitted one school day-long excused absence per school year to engage in a *civic event*, defined as “an event sponsored by a non-profit organization or governmental entity that is open to the public. *Civic event* includes, but is not limited to, an artistic or cultural performance or educational gathering that supports the mission of the sponsoring non-profit organization. Schools may require students to provide an appropriate administrator with reasonable advance notice of the intended absence and documentation of participation. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/22-92(b), added by P.A. 102-157 and renumbered by P.A. 102-813; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §207.30(a), requiring that every two years a board update its absenteeism and truancy policy and file it with the Ill. State Board of Education and the regional superintendent of schools [or Intermediate Service Center Executive Director, whichever is appropriate].

The policy must contain all requirements of 105 ILCS 5/22-92, indicate the date of adoption (by month, day, and year) and any revision dates, and be filed electronically by September 30 each review year through ISBE’s Web Application Security (IWAS) system. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §§207.20(a), 207.30(a). If, after review and re-evaluation of the policy, the district determines that no updates are necessary, either a copy of board minutes clearly indicating the policy was re-evaluated and no changes were deemed necessary or a signed statement from the board president indicating the policy was re-evaluated and no changes were deemed necessary must be submitted to IWAS. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §207.30(a)(3). ISBE has stated that for districts that update the adoption date listed on a policy whenever the policy is updated, the date of adoption is sufficient to also indicate the revision date. See ISBE's *Absenteeism and Truancy Policy FAQ*, at: www.isbe.net/Documents/Absenteeism-Truancy-Policy-FAQ.pdf.

ISBE rules implementing this requirement were published in the Ill. Register in October 2022 but provide that “[n]o later than September 30, 2022, or no later than September 30 of the first full school year a school becomes subject to this Part, each school or district must file the policy through the State Board of Education’s Web Application Security (IWAS), and must submit an updated policy every two years thereafter by no later than September 30 of the year due.” 23 Ill.Admin.Code §207.30(a). ISBE informed the **PRESS** Editors that due to the late publication date, the submission deadline for the 2022-2023 school year is extended to 1-13-23, and the September 30 submission deadline is not operative until the 2023-2024 school year. **Issue 110, October 2022**

Press Plus Issue #110 November 2022 - Policy Committee Meeting 12/16/22

1. Action to be taken:

CONSENT

1st READING

STAY IN COMMITTEE

2. Policy Committee to Determine:

Adopt as Presented

Adopt with Additional District Edits

Not Adopt (change "reviewed" date)