

## Truancy Prevention Measures

### SB 1489 – Certificate of Truancy Interventions

Sec. 25.0915. Truancy preventions measures; Referral and filing requirement. (a) A school district shall adopt truancy prevention measures designed to:

- (1) address student conduct related to truancy in the school setting; and
- (2) minimize the need for referrals to juvenile court for and complaints filed in county or justice court alleging truancy.
  - a. Each referral to juvenile court for or complaint filed in county or justice court alleging truancy by a student must be accompanied by a statement from the student's school certifying that:
    - i. the school applied the truancy prevention measures adopted under subsection (a) to the student; and
    - ii. the truancy prevention measures failed to meaningfully address the student's conduct related to truancy.

All parents received a copy of the Denton ISD document, *It's the Law!* from their child's campus during summer registration (schedule pick-up).

The following interventions must be documented before a student can be charged with failure to attend:

1. On the third unexcused absence, the assistant principal, or campus designee, must review the following with each student:
  - a. The Denton ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct (compulsory attendance)
  - b. The Denton ISD document, *It's the Law!*
  - c. The Denton ISD document, *Top Ten Tips on How to Manage Attendance and Stay Out of Truancy Court.*
2. During this conference, the Assistant Principal, or campus designee, must contact the parents/guardians and notify them that the "District Attendance Warning" Letter is being served. If a parent/guardian conference is not possible, the contact attempt must be documented and repeated efforts, as well as alternative methods must be tried. Each attempt at making contact should be documented on the "Certification of Truancy Interventions."
3. Disciplinary actions may also be administered to the student during this conference. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Verbal Correction
  - b. Before/After School Tutorial
  - c. Before/After School Detention
  - d. Attendance Contract
  - e. Saturday School
  - f. In-School Suspension
  - g. Campus initiatives
4. If unexcused absences continue, the Denton ISD will move forward with court action by filing either "Contributing to Non-attendance" against the parent/guardian or "Failure to Attend" against the student. There may be some situations in which both may be filed.
5. A copy of the "Certification of Truancy Interventions" form must be copied and:
  - a. Given to the parent/guardian.
  - b. Placed in the student's attendance file.
  - c. Sent to the District Attendance Officer for documentation in court (Attendance Liaison – HS).