

# PRESS PLUS ISSUE #108 NOVEMBER 2021

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2022

LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74 \ SECTION 7 - Students \

### Document Status: Draft Update

#### Students

#### 7:70 Attendance and Truancy

##### Definitions [PRESSPlus1](#)

**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), [PRESSPlus2](#) observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, 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 whose religious reasons, [PRESSPlus3](#) 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 activities conflict with the school day. Students absent for a valid cause may make up missed homework and classwork assignments in a reasonable timeframe. [PRESSPlus4](#)

##### 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.

LEGAL REF.:

[105 ILCS 5/26-1 through 186](#).

[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: November 4, 2021

REVIEWED: June 3, 2020 November 4, 2021

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#### **PRESSPlus Comments**

PRESSPlus 1. This policy's content is unique to the district. Please consult the author and the **PRESS** sample available by logging in at [www.iasb.com](http://www.iasb.com) to determine whether further changes are necessary. **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 2. 105 ILCS 5/26-1 and 5/26-2a, amended by P.A.s. 102-266 and 102-321. A student may be absent for mental or behavioral health for up to five days without providing a medical note, and the student must be given an opportunity to make up any missed school work. *Medical note* is not defined, but the same portion of the statute discusses a student's inability to attend school due to a disability being certified by an Illinois licensed physician, chiropractic physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant; presumably any of these individuals could provide a *medical note*. After the second mental health day used, the student may be referred to the appropriate school support personnel. See policy 7:250, *Student Support Services*. **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 3. Updated in response to 105 ILCS 5/26-1, amended by P.A. 102-406, which prohibits schools from requiring students excused for religious reasons to submit a written excuse after returning to school. **Issue 108, November 2021**

PRESSPlus 4. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.73 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-471, requires a written policy related to absences and missed homework or classwork assignments as a result of or related to a student's pregnancy. It makes sense to apply such a policy to all students who are absent for a valid cause. **Issue 108, November 2021**