

Document Status: Draft Update

7:70 Attendance and Truancy

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 her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (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, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of regular and sustained attendance at school to afford students the maximum benefit from the educational program of the School District. The Board of Education further recognizes that valid causes for absences of students from school also exist. The Board defines such valid causes of absence from school as student illness, or other medical necessity, quarantine, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, attendance at a civic event, [PRESSPlus1](#) family emergencies, economic necessity, reasonable concern on the part of the parent for the health or safety of their child, or other family hardship.

The district administration shall deem students who are absent without valid cause for a school day or part of a school day as truant. Any student who is absent without valid cause from school attendance for five percent (5%) or more of the previous 180 school days shall be subject to tiered interventions as specified in the supporting administrative procedure.

The District shall not engage in punitive action against a student who is truant without first either providing to the student supportive services and other school resources designed to eliminate the truancy or documenting that available supportive services and resources have been offered and refused.

Once students are receiving tiered interventions, teachers and building administrators will develop a plan to include instruction, work completion, and assessment with a defined timeline.

The Superintendent is directed to promulgate rules and regulations to implement this policy.

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, ~~et. seq.~~ 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), 6:150 (Home and Hospital Instruction), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:50 (School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools), 7:60 (Residence), 7:80 (Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance), 7:90 (Release During School Hours), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:340 (Student Records)

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**