

Truancy / Attendance

Update

March 08, 2016

Denton County Uniform Truancy Policy Committee

TEC 25.0916

Not later than January 1, 2016, the County Judge and Mayor of the largest municipality are to establish a committee that includes a representative from:

A juvenile court – Judge Kimberly McCary

A municipal court – Judge Robin Ramsay

A justice of the peace – Judge James DePiazza

Officer of the Prosecutor – Allison Sartin

Superintendent or designee of an ISD – Darrell Muncy (Large District); Shawn Simmons (Small District)

An open-enrollment charter school – Dr. Lisa Stanley

The general public – Amber Fulton

The chief juvenile probation officer or designee – Ken Metcalf

Committee Task

Not later than May 1, 2016, the committee shall recommend:

- A uniform process for filing truancy cases with truancy courts;
- Uniform administrative procedures;
- Uniform deadlines for processing truancy cases;
- A local plan with strategies to address truancy, including effective prevention, intervention and diversion methods to reduce truancy and referrals to a truancy court.
- A system for tracking truancy information and sharing truancy information among school districts, open-charter enrollment charter schools, truancy courts, juvenile courts, and juvenile probation departments in the county; and
- Any changes to the statutes or state agency rules the committee determines are necessary to address truancy.

Two Subcommittees Created

- 1. Subcommittee to work on *the process* – Judge McCary, Judge DePiazza, Judge Ramsay, Allison Sartin and Ken Metcalf.
 - A uniform process for filing truancy cases with truancy courts;
 - Uniform administrative procedures;
 - Uniform deadlines for processing truancy cases.
- 2. Subcommittee to work on *a local plan* – Dr. Stanley, Shawn Simmons, Amber Fulton and myself.
 - A local plan with strategies to address truancy, including effective prevention, intervention and diversion methods to reduce truancy and referrals to a truancy court.

Recommended Changes

- The final objective is to recommend changes to statutes or state agency rules the committee determines are necessary to address truancy.

February 19th – Committee Meeting

- 10 original committee members
- 11 additional school districts represented
- 3 open enrollment charter schools were present
- 2 additional Justices of the Peace – Precinct 1 and Precinct 3
- Two Juvenile Case Mangers

Observations

- All of Denton ISD's truancy cases will be filed in Judge Holland's JP 1
- Courts are frustrated with the House Bill
- School districts are frustrated and uncertain in their approach to HB 2398
- The prosecutor's office is under staffed and prioritizing their efforts
- There has been very little court action regarding truancy
- 2015/16 has provided a trial run for the newest truancy legislation

Denton ISD – Procedure

UNEX - UNV - LOSIT

3rd in a 4 week period – Warning Letter, “It’s the Law”, “Ten Tips”,



4th Campus consequence

5th Student Attendance Contract

6th Truancy Class Invitation

7th Campus Consequence

8th Campus Consequence

9th Notify Parents that the next UNEX, UNV, LOSIT will be referred to Courts

10th Referral

2015-16 Interventions

- Warning Letters
 - Elementary 1959
 - Middle 1015
 - High School 1534
 - Total 4508
- Attendance Contract
 - Total 32*
- Referral to Truancy Office
 - Total 15
- Referred to Court
 - Total 10