

TRUANCY

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence.

When a student is absent from school without approval of the principal and without the knowledge of the student's parent/guardians, he/she will be considered to be truant. Students who are found to be truant will face disciplinary action through detentions, suspension or expulsion. Severity of the disciplinary action will depend on severity of the act, and the student's past disciplinary record in school.

Truancy is the failure to attend school for the minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board. Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall serve as the district's attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who is unlawfully absent from school.

If any student has accumulated a total of seven (7) excused and unexcused absences per semester or the hourly equivalent of seven absences, the school shall render all services in its power to compel the student's attendance. These services shall include the following:

1. A meeting or meetings between the attendance officer or designee, the student's parent/guardian and the student to solve the truancy problem.
2. Educational counseling to explore alternative educational programs to solve the truancy problem.
3. Educational evaluation to assist in determining the specific condition(s) contributing to the truancy problem.
4. Investigation of the problem by a school social worker or designee to identify conditions contributing to the truancy problem, meeting(s) with the parent/guardian and referrals to appropriate agencies to remedy the conditions.
5. If the problem continues, the attendance officer shall serve written notice to the parent/guardian warning him/her of the need to comply with the compulsory attendance statute of section 79-201. If the violation continues, within one week a report shall be filed with the county attorney as required by law.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It shall be within the discretion of the principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations shall indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-208 and 209

Cross Reference: 411.03 Truancy Officer
 503 Student Attendance
 505 Student Discipline
 506 Student Activities
 507 Student Records

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____