



STUDENTS

5113.2

Truancy

The district's policy on student truancy shall stress early prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences rather than imposition of punitive measures for students. Referral to legal authorities normally shall be made only when local resources are exhausted.

"Truant" shall mean a student age five to eighteen, inclusive, who has four unexcused absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year.

"In attendance" shall mean a student if present at his/her assigned school, or a school sponsored activity, including field trips, interscholastic competitions, for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-184 Duties of parents as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157
10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants as amended by PA 00-157 and PA 11-136
10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general
10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules, Campbell vs New Milford, 193 Conn 93 (1984)

Policy Adopted: 11/18/91
Revised: 6/15/93
Revised: 6/19/12

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On an annual basis the district collects information from parents on phone numbers and emergency numbers where they can be reached.

The school administration will make a concentrated effort to prevent and remedy truancy in its early stages for students who are found to be truant. This will include:

1. A meeting with the principal/guidance counselor/teacher, and the parent (or other person having control) of the child who is truant within ten (10) school days after the child's fourth unexcused absence in one month or tenth unexcused absence in one school year to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.
2. The principal/guidance counselor shall coordinate services with and referrals of children to community agencies providing child and family services. Prior to the written complaint to the Superior Court, a referral will be made to the PPT to determine whether or not an educational evaluation is appropriate.
3. Annually notify the parent or other person having control of each child enrolled in a grade from Kindergarten to eight in writing of obligations of the parent pursuant to 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
4. Whenever a child enrolled in school in grades K-8 fails to report to school on a regularly scheduled school day and no indication has been received by school personnel that the child's parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the pupil's absence, a reasonable effort to notify, by telephone, the parent or such other person shall be made by the school personnel or volunteers under the direction of the school personnel. Persons who, in good faith, gives or fails to give notice pursuant to subdivision (4) shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such notice or failure to give such notice.
5. The superintendent shall file a written complaint pursuant to said CSG section 46b-149 for each habitual truant enrolled in the schools under his/her jurisdiction. An annual report will also be submitted to the State Department of Education.

A phone call to the school on the day of the absence or written notification upon the student's return to school should be submitted to school officials by the child's parent or

person having control of the child. All other absences, with or without written explanation, shall be considered unexcused.

The following constitute excused absences/dismissals:

- A. 1. Medical/illness or injury which requires the student's presence at home. Three or more absences in a week or a pattern of excessive absence due to illness may require a physician's note
2. Death in the family which requires the student's presence at home
3. Religious observances which require the student's presence at home
4. School sponsored activities, including field trips, interscholastic competitions
5. Court appearances
6. In-school suspensions
7. In-school appointments (counselor, administrator, nurse, etc.)
8. Testing for a driver's license
9. College visits
10. Such others that the principal judges as warranted

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