

TRUANCY - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

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. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Truancy is the act of being absent without an acceptable excuse. Truancy shall not be tolerated by the board.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for an unexcused absence 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 unexcused absences. Students receiving special education services shall not be assigned to in-school suspension unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

The principal of each attendance center shall serve as the building's truancy officer. The principal shall investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, he/she shall discuss the next step with the superintendent. If after further action by the superintendent or designee, the student is still truant, the superintendent shall refer the matter over to the county attorney.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The principal shall represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

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

Legal Reference: Code of Iowa §294.4, §299(2011).
§281 I.A.C 12.3(4)

Cross Reference: 206.3 Secretary
410.3 Truancy Officer
501 Student Attendance
503 Student Discipline
504 Student Activities
506 Student Records

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Revised: