

# Students

## Truancy

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**Introduction and Definitions:** 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 child, age seven to eighteen inclusive, who has four unexcused absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year.

**Remediation of Truancy:** School personnel shall seek cooperation from parents or other persons having control of such child and assist them in remedying and preventing truancy. The superintendent of schools shall develop regulations which will detail the following school district obligations under the district's truancy policy:

1. Notify parents annually of their obligations under the attendance policy.
2. Obtain telephone numbers for emergency record cards or other means of contacting parents or other persons having control of the child during the school day.
3. Establish a system to monitor student attendance.
4. Make a reasonable effort to notify parents or other persons having control of the child when a child does not arrive at school, and there has been no previous approval or other indication which indicates parents are aware of the absence. ~ *(Note: Persons who in good faith give or fail to give notice pursuant to this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such notice or failure to give notice).*
5. Identify a student as "truant" when the student accumulates four unexcused absences in any month or ten unexcused absences in any school year.
6. School staff will notify parents/guardians in writing of a child identified as truant and will attempt to meet with them to review and evaluate the situation within ten (10) days of such designation.

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7. File a written complaint with the Superior Court alleging that the acts or omissions of a child identified as "truant" are such that the student's family is a "family with service needs", if the parent or other person having control of the child fails to attend the required meeting with appropriate school personnel to evaluate why the child is truant or fails to cooperate with the school in trying to solve the child's truancy problem.
8. Provide coordination of services and refer "truants" to community agencies which provide family services.

Students identified as truants may be subject to:

- a. retention in the same grade to acquire necessary skills for promotion.
- b. a requirement to complete a summer school program successfully before being promoted to the next grade.

### Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents.

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised, 1995, HB 6898)

10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.

10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules. *Campbell v New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984).