

TRUANCY - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents/guardians and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school 180 days unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

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. These absences will include, but not be limited to, tardiness, shopping, hunting, concerts, preparation or participation in parties and other celebrations, and employment. Truancy will not be tolerated by the board.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It is within the discretion of the principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy. Students receiving special education services that are truant will not be assigned to special study sessions or make-up programs unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299 (2014).
281 I.A.C. 12.2(4).

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

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Revised 07/13/2015

Truancy will not be tolerated by the board. Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy. The building administrator shall investigate the cause for a student's truancy. Once the truancy officer secures the truant student's attendance, the truancy officer shall discuss the next step with the building administrator. The building administrator shall notify the parent/guardian regarding the student's attendance. After parent/guardian notification, if the student is still truant, the building administrator shall refer the matter to the county attorney's office for mediation.

The building administrator shall represent the school district in truancy mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney's office.

The mediation process is a cumulative process. The county attorney's office has the discretion to determine whether additional mediation hearings shall take place or to proceed to prosecution.