



AchievePoint
CAREER ACADEMY

Truancy Policy
2018 - 2019

Cincinnati | Columbus

The Board of Directors adopts this policy for the purpose of guiding the School's operator and School staff in addressing and ameliorating student absences. The School will track the attendance of its students and notify parents/guardians of their student's absences and the fact that it is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to cause the student to attend school.

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The School will attempt to work with families to address barriers to regular attendance and support academic success for all students. The School's absence intervention strategies may include any of the following:

1. Providing a truancy intervention plan as described below;
2. Providing counseling for truant students;
3. Requesting or requiring a parent/guardian to attend parental involvement programs;
4. Requesting or requiring a parent/guardian to attend truancy prevention mediation programs;
5. Notification of the registrar of motor vehicles; and
6. Taking necessary or required legal actions.

The School shall not suspend or expel a student solely for being truant.

NOTICE OF EXCESSIVE ABSENCE

In the event a student of compulsory school age is absent, with or without legitimate excuse, for 38 or more hours in one school month, or 65 or more hours in a school year, the School shall notify the child's parent, guardian, or custodian of the child's absences, in writing, within 7 days after the date after the absence that triggered the notice requirement.

HABITUAL TRUANCY

"Habitual truants," are defined as students that are absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year. In the event a student meets the threshold for habitual truancy, the School must take the following steps:

1. The Superintendent/Principal must establish an Absence Intervention Team (hereafter referred to as the "Team").
 - a. The Team must be selected within 7 school days of the student reaching the habitual truancy threshold.
 - b. The Team must include:
 - i. The student's parent or parent's designee, the student's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem or temporary custodian (collectively referred to hereafter as "Parent");
 - ii. One representative from the school; and
 - iii. One representative from the school that knows the student.
 - c. The Team may also include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, or representative of a public or nonprofit agency designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences.
 - d. Within 7 school days of the student reaching the habitual truancy threshold, the Superintendent/Principal shall make at least 3 meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the Parent's participation on the Team.
 - i. If the Parent responds but is unable to participate, the Superintendent/Principal shall inform them of their right to appoint a designee.
 - ii. If the Parent does not respond within 7 school days the School shall do both of the following:
 1. Investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory reporting to the county children services agency pursuant to ORC 2151.421; and
 2. Instruct the Team to develop an Intervention Plan notwithstanding the Parent's absence
2. The Superintendent must assign the student to a Team within 10 days of becoming habitually truant.
3. The Team must develop an intervention plan for the student within 14 school days after the student is assigned. The plan is to be aimed at reducing or eliminating further absences. The plan shall be based on the individual needs of the student, but shall state that the School shall file a complaint not sooner than 61 days after the date the plan was implemented, if the student has refused to participate in, or failed to make satisfactory progress on the intervention plan or an alternative to adjudication for being an unruly child.
4. Within 7 days after the development of the plan, the School shall make reasonable efforts to provide the student's Parent with written notice of the plan.

Habitual Truancy within Last 21 Days of School Year

In the event the student becomes habitually truant within 21 school days prior to the last day of instruction of the school year, the School may, in its discretion, either:

1. Assign a School official to work with the student's Parent to develop an absence intervention plan during the summer. If the School selects this method, the plan shall be implemented not later than 7 days prior to the first day of instruction of the next school year; or
2. Reconvene the absence intervention process upon the first day of instruction of the next school year.

Exception from Intervention Plan Requirement

If the School has a chronic absenteeism percentage that is less than 5%, as displayed on the School's most recent local report card, it shall be exempt from the requirement to assign habitually truant students to an absence intervention team for the following school year and shall instead take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy. In the event that the intervention strategies fail, within 61 days after their implementation, the School shall file a complaint, provided (a) the school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication; and (b) the student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication.

Complaints in Juvenile Court for Habitual Truancy

The School shall file a complaint in juvenile court, jointly against the student and Parent, alleging that a student is an unruly child for being a habitual truant in accordance with timelines and conditions established by law. As an alternative the School may file an educational neglect action due to the age or non-competency of a young child.

MANDATORY WITHDRAWAL

Any student that without a legitimate excuse fails to attend one hundred and five (105) consecutive hours will be automatically withdrawn from the school.