

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 will attend school 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. Absences listed may be excused if student is with parent/guardian.

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 will not be assigned to in-school suspension unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individual Education program are capable of being met.

The principal will investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal will refer the matter over to the county attorney.

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

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 (2013).

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

Approved: December 16, 1991

Reviewed: January 14, 2002

Revised: November 12, 2007

Revised: October 23, 2012

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