

TRUANCY/CHRONIC ABSENCE

Interventions for Student Absences

Chronic absence differs from truancy in that it tracks both excused and unexcused absences.

The district shall provide interventions for students who are missing school, depending on the number of absences.

Individual Prevention is called for if a student misses 5% or more but less than 10% of classes or days of school. For elementary school absences the parent is to be contacted by the attendance team for discussion; middle school and high school absence discussions by the attendance team are to be with the parent and student. The discussions shall inform them of:

- the student's attendance history,
- interventions or services available to the student or family, and
- consequences of further absences which may include referral to the children, youth and families' department for excessive absenteeism.

Early Intervention is called for if a student misses 10% or more but less than 20% of classes or days of school. The attendance team shall:

- notify the parent in writing by mail or personal service,
- providing the date, time and place for a meeting to be held for the purpose of developing intervention strategies to keep the student in an educational setting.

The attendance team shall be convened to establish:

- a specific intervention plan for the student,
- weekly progress monitoring, and
- a contract for attendance.

Intensive Support is called for if a student misses 20% or more of the classes or days of school. The attendance team shall:

- notify the parent in writing by mail or personal service,

- providing the date, time and place for a meeting to be held with the parent, principal of the school and the attendance team for the purpose of:
 - establishing nonpunitive consequences for the student at the school level,
 - identifying appropriate specialized supports needed to help the student address the underlying causes of excessive absenteeism, and
 - apprise the student and the parent of the consequences of further absences.

Student-teacher incompatibility, if alleged, will require consultation with the teacher and a meeting initiated by the principal with the student, parent and teacher.

If the student does not respond to intensive support as implemented above by continued absence (excessive absenteeism), the school board shall consult with the superintendent in executive session on the issue and shall cause the student to be reported to the probation services office of the appropriate judicial district for the purpose of an investigation as to whether the student should be considered a neglected child or a child in a family in need of family services, subjecting the child to provisions of the Children's Code.

The records supporting such action shall be provided to the juvenile probation services office by the superintendent within ten (10) days of the identification of the student excessively absent.

~~A student with five (5) unexcused absences within a school year is a student in need of early intervention and one with ten (10) or more unexcused absences within a school year is "habitually truant". The Superintendent will establish procedures to identify and intervene with students in need of early intervention, beginning with contacting parents and requesting an opportunity to discuss interventions. Discipline Consequences shall not include out-of-school suspension or expulsion, but should focus on intervention and fostering retention of students in the educational setting.~~

~~Parents of "habitually truant" students are to receive notice of such which shall include a specific date, time and place for the "habitually truant" student's parent to meet with school personnel to develop intervention strategies for keeping the student in an educational setting. Only after exhaustion of intervention strategies may the district consider withdrawal of the student from membership in the school. Consulting with the juvenile probation services office or the caseworker for child services should be accomplished before such action.~~

~~An excused absence shall be as determined in Policy JH but statutes and regulations relative to notice and intervention do not apply to any absence if the parent has contacted the school to explain the absence.~~

Adopted: date of manual

adoption LEGAL REF. 22-8-2

NMSA (1978)

~~22-12-7 NMSA (1978)~~

~~22-12-8 NMSA (1978)~~

~~22-12-9 NMSA (1978)~~

22-12A-9 NMSA

22-12A-11 NMSA

22-12A-12 NMSA

6.10.8.7 NMAC

6.10.8.8 NMAC

6.10.8.9 NMAC

6.10.8.10 NMAC

CROSS REF.: JE - Student Attendance

JEA - Compulsory Attendance

Ages JH - Student Absences

and Excuses

GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

07/20/12