

Attendance, Truancy, and Automatic Withdrawal Policy

Attendance at school is key to achievement. Students are expected to attend school regularly and on time. Absences from school for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, take away from instructional time and have an adverse effect on student learning. Parents/guardians are encouraged to partner with the School to ensure attendance and timeliness.

Parents/guardians are required to notify the School of any absence prior to the start of the school day. Similarly, parents/guardians are required to notify the School in advance of early pick-up. Within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day, the School shall make at least one attempt in compliance with ORC 3321.141 (A)(2) to contact the parent/guardian of any student absent without legitimate excuse.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to make any doctor, dentist, etc. appointments for times other than school hours.

Chronically Absent

A student shall be considered "chronically absent" when missing at least ten percent of the minimum number of hours required in the school year.

Habitually Truant

A student shall be considered habitually truant when the student is absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 hours or more in one school month, or 72 hours or more in a school year.

Prevention & Intervention Strategies

The School will implement prevention strategies to reduce the likelihood of students becoming chronically absent. The School will also utilize tiered interventions and supports for students with greater numbers of absences. Prevention and Intervention strategies may include the following:

- Establishing an intervention team to work with students at risk of becoming chronically absent
- Communicating clear attendance expectations
- Educating students and parents on the importance of regular attendance and the detriments of absences
- Adopting positive school climate initiatives, including attendance incentives/recognition
- Hosting family engagement activities
- Monitoring early warning data,
- Providing Transportation assistance
- Consulting/partnering with public, nonprofit, or private entities to provide assistance to students and their families in reducing absences
- Providing resources to help students and families address the root causes of absences
- Connecting families with wraparound services such as counseling, social workers, healthcare, housing, or food support

Parent/Guardian Notification Procedures

When a student reaches 46_ hours of missed instructional time (which does not exceed five percent of the minimum number of hours required in the school year), the School will begin notification procedures.

- Initial notification will be by automated call/text/email within three school days after exceeding the hours listed above.
- Follow up personal contact from school staff will occur within seven school days after exceeding the hours listed above.

Tiered Interventions and Supports

Interventions will increase depending upon the students number of absences and whether improvement has been shown. Interventions may include, but are not limited to, the following interventions as are applicable and best suited to individual student needs:

1. Counseling or other connections to social services.
2. Requesting or requiring a parent, guardian, or other person having care of the student to attend parental involvement programs, including programs adopted under section 3313.472 or 3313.663 of the Ohio Revised Code
3. Requesting or requiring a parent, guardian, or other person having care of the student to attend truancy prevention mediation programs
4. Taking legal action under section 2919.222, 3321.20, or 3321.38 of the Ohio Revised Code
5. Seeking juvenile court involvement to have a student informally enrolled in an alternative to adjudication. (If the School chooses to have students informally enrolled in an alternative to adjudication, the School shall develop a written policy regarding the use of and selection process for offering alternatives to adjudication to ensure fairness.)

Automatic Withdrawal by School

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3314.03(A)(1)(6)(b), a student will be automatically withdrawn from the School if the student without a legitimate excuse fails to participate in seventy-two consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the student.

Notwithstanding the above, no student shall be suspended, expelled, or otherwise prevented from attending school based solely on the number of absences; rather, the School will be proactive in engaging students.

Withdrawal by Student

When a student of compulsory school age withdraws from the School, the School shall attempt to ascertain the reason for the withdrawal. If the reason for the withdrawal is for a reason other than a change in residence and is not enrolled in another program, the School shall notify and the juvenile court in the county in which the School is located. The notice shall be given within

two weeks after the withdrawal and failure to enroll in another program permitted by law.

Collaboration

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of collaboration in order to help students attend school and to meet their wide-ranging needs. On the date the Board of Directors held a meeting to approve this policy it provided public notice of the meeting and provided an opportunity to consult on the development of this policy with parents, guardians, and others having care of students, school employees and volunteers, community members, local juvenile courts, and relevant state and local agencies.. The School will continue to work with local agencies regarding increasing attendance. Families, school employees and volunteers, community members, local juvenile courts, and all agencies and stakeholders are encouraged to bring any concerns or comments regarding this policy to the attention of the School at any time.