



NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

Board of Education Policy 7-75

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STUDENTS

TRUANCY

Truancy or repeated tardiness is incompatible with the State's compulsory school attendance requirements. Students, parents/guardians and District staff are encouraged to work together to identify and alleviate student attendance problems.

Definitions

The Board of Education shall recognize the following definitions in administering its truancy policy.

1. **Truant** - A student who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.
2. **Valid Cause** - A student may be absent from school because of illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the Board or such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the safety or health of the student.
3. **Chronic or Habitual Truant** - A student who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 10 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.
4. **Truant Minor** - A student to whom supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic, interventional and remedial services, alternative programs and other school and community resources have been provided and have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy or have been offered and refused.

5. **Dropout** - A student whose name has been removed from the District enrollment roster for any reason other than death, extended illness, graduation or completion of a program of studies and who has not transferred to another public or private school.

Truancy

When confronted with a student attendance problem, District staff shall determine if the student is a truant, chronic or habitual truant or a truant minor. The Superintendent shall direct the school administration to develop procedures that will insure progressive disciplinary action for class truanancies. Penalties will include, but not be limited to, grade reduction and loss of credit for the course in which the truanancies occur. The Superintendent shall direct appropriate staff to develop diagnostic procedures to be used with the student who is a truant, chronic or habitual truant or a truant minor. The diagnostic procedures may include but not be limited to counseling services for the student and the student's parent/guardian, a health evaluation by the Health Services Coordinator, use of peer groups and clinical evaluations by local and/or State agencies.

No punitive action, including out of school suspensions, expulsions or court action, shall be taken against a chronic truant for his or her truancy unless available supportive services and other school resources have first been provided to the student.

When the supportive services of the District have been offered to the student and if these measures prove ineffective and the behavior persists, the Superintendent shall be notified and may call upon the resources of outside agencies such as the Juvenile Officer of the local police department or the Truant Officer of the County Educational Service Region. The Board, Superintendent, administrators and teachers shall assist and furnish such information as they have to aid truant officers in the performance of their duties.

Legal Reference: 105 ILCS 5/26-1 et seq.

Adopted: 7/20/94

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Affirmed: 5/15/2006