

TRUANCY

If a student is absent without a valid and verified parent/guardian excuse or if the student leaves school or a class without permission of the teacher or administrator in charge, the student shall be considered truant. A "habitual truant" shall be defined as a student of compulsory attendance age (a child who has attained the age of six years on or before August 1 of each year and is under the age of seventeen years) who has four total days unexcused absences from school in any one month or 10 total days unexcused absences from school during any school year. For information regarding what constitutes an excused absence, refer to Board Policy JH. Classification as a habitual truant shall cause judicial proceedings to be initiated to enforce compulsory attendance. Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be counted toward a designation of "habitually truant".

A student who is absent more than 50 percent of any attendance period during a scheduled school day shall be considered absent for that entire recorded and reported period. Reporting periods are broken down by half days for elementary students. Reporting periods are broken down per class for middle school and high school students. Unexcused absences occur when the student is absent without a reason or for an unacceptable reason as identified within the attendance rules set by local school board of education policy (Policy JH), when the parent's/guardian's excuse is not valid or verified, or the student leaves school or a class without permission of authorized school staff. (See 1 C.C.R. 301-78 for a standardized calculation for counting student attendance and truancy).

The school shall establish a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences. When a student fails to report on a regularly scheduled school day and school personnel have received no indication that his or her parent/guardian is aware of the absence, school personnel or volunteers under the direction of school personnel shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent or guardian by telephone.

When a student is declared habitually truant, (or before this declaration, where practicable), the school shall require a meeting between the student's parent/guardian and appropriate school personnel to review and evaluate the reasons for the student being habitually truant and to develop a plan for the purpose of assisting the student to remain in school. (Refer also to file JKEA Expulsion Prevention Programs) Where practicable, such plan will be developed with the full participation of the student's parent/guardian. Failure of the student's parent/guardian to participate shall not alleviate the need for the development of a plan. Such meeting should be held not later than 10 school days after the student's fourth total days unexcused absence in a month or 10th unexcused total days absence in a year.

Penalties

A student shall be given a warning on his first truancy offense. Further truanancies may result in additional in-school alternatives and could result in court referral through the local judicial system, if the student meets the designation of habitually truant.

Adopted December 1994
Revised September 1995
Revised September 1996
Revised April 13, 2011

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-33-104
C.R.S. 22-33-107
C.R.S. 22-33-108
1 CCR 301-78 - Standardized Calculation for Counting Student Attendance and Truancy

CROSS REFS.: JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages
JH, Student Absences and Excuses
JKD/JKE, Student Suspension/Expulsion/Denial of Admission

Policy Owner: Director, Student Discipline