

Truancy

If a student is absent without an excuse signed by the parent/guardian 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" is defined as a student of compulsory attendance age who has four total days of unexcused absences from school in any one month or 10 total days of unexcused absences during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be counted in the total of unexcused absences for purposes of defining a student as a "habitual truant."

In order to reduce the incidents of truancy, parents/guardians of all students shall be notified in writing at the beginning of each school year of their obligation to ensure that all children of compulsory attendance age attend school. Parents/guardians shall be required to acknowledge in writing awareness of their obligations and to furnish the school with a telephone number or other means of contacting them during the school day.

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 the 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/guardian by telephone.

A plan shall be developed for a student who is at risk of being declared habitually truant with the goal of assisting the child to remain in school. The plan shall include strategies to address the reasons for the truancy. When practical, the student's parent, guardian or legal custodian shall participate with District personnel during the development of the plan. Appropriate school personnel shall make reasonable efforts to meet with the parent, guardian or legal custodian to review and evaluate the reasons for the student's truancy.

In accordance with law, the District may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while truant. Penalties may include a warning, school detention, or in-school suspension. Academic penalties, out-of-school suspensions, or expulsion shall not be imposed for truancy. In an attempt to reintegrate a student who has missed school back into the classroom, students will be permitted to complete make-up work. The school director has discretion whether to award full or partial credit for make-up work completed satisfactorily.

District administration shall develop regulations to implement appropriate penalties for truancy. District Administration shall consider the correlation between course failure, truancy, and a student dropping out of school in developing these regulations and shall implement research-based strategies to re-engage students with a high number of truantcies. The District will designate an attendance officer to enforce the provisions of the compulsory attendance law, counsel students and parents, and investigate the causes of non-attendance.

As a last resort to address a truancy problem, the District will commence court proceedings to compel compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

Adopted April 23, 2013, by the Board of Education for Mapleton Public Schools.

LEGALREFERENCES:

C.R.S. 22-14-101 *et seq.* (dropout prevention and student re-engagement)

C.R.S. 22-33-104 (compulsory school attendance)

C.R.S. 22-33-105 (suspension/expulsion)

C.R.S. 22-33-107 (enforcement of compulsory school attendance)

1 CCR 301-67, Rule 2.01 (7) (definition of “dropout” student)

1 CCR 301-78 Rules 1.00 *et seq.* (standardized calculation for counting student attendance and truancy)

CROSSREFERENCES:

IHBG: Home Schooling

JEA: Compulsory Attendance Ages

JFC: Student Withdrawal from School/Dropouts

JH: Student Absences and Excuses