

Truancy

If a student is absent without notification 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 "habitually truant" student shall be defined as a student of compulsory attendance age who has four total days of unexcused absences from school or from class 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 "habitually 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.

When a student is declared habitually truant, the principal 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.

A plan shall be developed for a student who is at risk of being declared habitually truant with the goal of assisting the student to remain in school. The plan shall also include strategies to address the reasons for the truancy and shall implement research-based strategies to re-engage students with a high number of truancies. When feasible, 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.

Adopted: October 27, 1993
Revised: September 25, 1996
Revised: September 28, 2005
Revised: June 24, 2015
Revised: November 11, 2020

LEGAL REFS.: 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)
C.R.S. 22-33-108 (judicial proceedings to enforce school attendance laws)
1 CCR 301-78 Rules 1.00 *et seq.* (standardized calculation for counting student attendance and truancy)

CROSS REFS.: IHBG, Home Schooling
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages

JFC, Student Withdrawal from School/Dropouts
JH, Student Absences and Excuses

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado