

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Policy

Students**Truancy****Introduction and Definitions**

The Scotland School District's policy on student truancy shall stress early prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences rather than imposition of punitive measures for students. Referral to legal authorities normally shall be made only when local resources are exhausted. For purposes of implementing this policy and for reporting purposes regarding truancy, the District will utilize the State Board of Education approved definitions of "excused," "unexcused," and "disciplinary" absences, as amended in BOE policy 5113.

"Truant" shall mean a student age five to eighteen, inclusive, who has four unexcused absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year.

"In attendance" shall mean a student ~~if~~ is present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day, or less than a half day if the late arrival or early dismissal is explained, in writing, by a parent or guardian. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent.

"Chronically absent child" is an enrolled student whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year.

"Absence" means an excused absence, unexcused absence or disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the State Board of Education pursuant to C.G.S. 10-198b, as amended in BOE policy 5113.

"District chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of chronically absent children in the previous school year divided by the total number of children under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education for such school year.

Remediation of Truancy

School personnel shall seek cooperation from parents or other persons having control of such child and assist them in remedying and preventing truancy. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop regulations which will detail the following school district obligations under the district's truancy policy.

1. Notify parents annually of their obligations under the attendance policy.
2. Obtain telephone numbers for emergency record cards or other means of contacting

Students**Truancy****Remediation of Truancy (continued)**

parents or other persons having control of the child during the school day.

3. Establish a system to monitor student attendance.
4. Make a reasonable effort by telephone and by mail to notify parents or other persons having control of the child, enrolled in grades one through ~~eight~~ **six**, inclusive, when a child does not arrive at school and there has been no previous approval or other indication which indicates parents are aware of the absence.
5. Identify a student as "truant" when the student accumulates four unexcused absences in any month or ten in a school year.
6. Identify a student as "chronically absent" when the student accumulates a total number of absences at any time during a school year that is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at the school during the school year.
7. Appropriate school staff meet with parents of a child identified as truant or chronically absent to review and evaluate the situation, within ten days of such designation. Such meeting may involve the District Attendance Team, when the chronic absenteeism rate in the District is 10 percent or higher.

Students so identified may be subject to:

- (a) retention in the same grade to acquire necessary skills for promotion or retention.
 - (b) a requirement to complete a summer school program successfully before being promoted to the next grade.
8. When a petition is filed, an educational evaluation of the truant student shall be done by appropriate school personnel if no such evaluation has been performed within the preceding year.
 9. Provide coordination of services and refer "truants" to community agencies which provide child and family services.
 10. If in existence, refer the child to the children's probate court truancy clinic.

The Board, on or before 8/15/18, shall implement a truancy intervention model identified by the

Policy adopted by the Board, June 5, 2018

SCOTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
Scotland, Connecticut

Students

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Remediation of Truancy (continued)

Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) for the Scotland Elementary School District if it has a disproportionately high rate of truancy, as identified by the Commissioner of Education. Parents or other persons having control of each child shall be notified of such truancy model. (The SDE is required to identify these effective truancy intervention models by 8/15/17.)

Chronic Absenteeism

The Board of Education, in compliance with statute, requires the establishment of attendance review teams when chronic absenteeism rates in the District is 10 percent or higher.

The membership of attendance review teams may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers, chronically absent children, parents or guardians of chronically absent children, and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants.

The attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. The attendance review team shall meet at least monthly, when the chronic absenteeism rate in the District is 10 percent or higher.

The District shall utilize the chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan developed by the State Department of Education when it becomes available.

The District shall annually include in information for the strategic school profile report for the District if the District submitted to the Commissioner of Education, data pertaining to truancy and chronically absent children.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-184 Duties of parents. (as amended by PA 98-243 and PA 00-157)
- 10-198a Policies and procedures concerning truants (as amended by PA 00-157, PA 11-136 and PA 16-147)
- 10-198b State Board of Education to define "excused absence", "unexcused absence", and "disciplinary absences"
- 10-198c Attendance review teams (as amended by PA 17-14)
- 10-198d Chronic absenteeism
- 10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general. (Revised, 1995, PA 95-304)
- 45a-8c Truancy clinic. Administration. Policies and procedures. Report. (as amended by PA 15-225)
- 10-220(c) Duties of boards of education (as amended by PA 15-225)
- 10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.
- 10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules.
- Campbell v New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984).
- Action taken by the State Board of Education on January 2, 2008, to define "attendance."*
- Action taken by the State Board of Education on June 27, 2012, to define "excused and "unexcused" absences.*

Policy adopted by the Board, June 5, 2018

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