

HABITUAL AND CHRONIC TRUANCY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

The Board of Education, after consulting with the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, parents, guardians, or other persons having care of the students attending school in the District, and appropriate state and local agencies, has established this policy in order to provide guidance to employees in addressing and ameliorating the attendance practice of any student who is an habitual truant.

An “habitual truant” is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without a legitimate excuse for five or more consecutive school days, seven or more school days in one month or twelve or more school days in a school year.

A “chronic truant” is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for seven or more consecutive school days, ten or more school days in one month or fifteen or more school days in a school year.

On the request of the Superintendent, or when it comes to the attention of the school attendance officer or other appropriate officer of the District, the designated officer is required to investigate any case of supposed truancy within the District and must warn the child, if found truant, and the child’s parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child in writing of the legal consequences of being an “habitual truant” or a “chronic truant”. The notice must also inform the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child that he/she shall cause the child’s attendance at school immediately.

When it has been determined that a child has been truant and that the parent, guardian or other person having care of a child has failed to ensure the child’s attendance at school after being notified, the Superintendent may require the parent to attend a specified parental educational program established according to the rules adopted by the State Board of Education for the purpose of encouraging parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child at school. Therefore, if directed by the Superintendent, the attendance officer must send notice requiring the child’s parent to attend a parental education program.

HABITUAL TRUANCY

Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to cause the child’s attendance at school, if the child is deemed to be an habitual truant, the District is required to do either or both of the following:

1. Take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy. The intervention strategy may include any or all of the following:

- A. The assignment of the habitual truant to an alternative school pursuant to O.R.C. §3313.533.
 - B. Providing a truancy intervention program for an habitual truant;
 - C. Requesting or requiring a parent of guardian, or other person having care of an habitual truant to attend parental involvement programs, including programs adopted under O.R.C. §3313.472 or 3313.633;
 - D. Requesting or requiring a parent, guardian, or other person having care of an habitual truant to attend truancy prevention mediation programs;
 - E. Notification of the registrar of motor vehicles under O.R.C. §3321.13;
 - F. Taking legal action pursuant to O.R.C. §§2919.222, 3321.20, or 3321.38.
2. Filing a complaint with the proper county juvenile court. If a complaint is filed, it shall allege that:
- A. The child is unruly for being an habitual truant, or is a delinquent child for being an habitual truant who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant; and
 - B. The parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has violated O.R.C. §3321.38.

CHRONIC TRUANCY

Upon the failure of the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to cause the child's attendance, if the child is deemed to be a chronic truant, the Board shall file a complaint in the county juvenile court jointly against the child and the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child. The complaint must allege that the child is a delinquent child for being a chronic truant and that the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child has violated O.R.C. §3321.38.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the authority of the Superintendent or designee to develop or utilize other strategies to respond to student truancy.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §3321.191

Adopted: August 12, 2014