

## POLICY 7:70

### Attendance and Truancy

#### Compulsory School Attendance

This policy applies to individuals who have custody or control of a child: (a) between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age (unless the child has graduated from high school), or (b) who is enrolled in any of grades, kindergarten through 12, in the public school regardless of age. These individuals must cause the child to attend the District school wherein the child is assigned, except as provided herein or by State law.

The following children are not required to attend public school:

- (1) Any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school; where children are taught the branches of education taught to children of corresponding age and grade in the public schools, and where the instruction of the child in the branches of education is in the English language.
- (2) Any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering a medical complication arising from her pregnancy). The physical or mental disability must be certified to the county or district truant officer by:
  - a) a competent physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches,
  - b) a chiropractic physician licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987,
  - c) an advanced practice nurse who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the advanced practice nurse to perform health examinations,
  - d) a physician assistant who has been delegated the authority to perform health examinations by his/her supervising physician, or
  - e) a Christian Science practitioner residing in Illinois and listed in the Christian Science Journal
- (3) Any child lawfully and necessarily employed under the law regulating child labor, upon certification of the facts by and the recommendation of the Superintendent or designee.
- (4) Any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes.
- (5) Any child absent because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day or at a particular time of day. The parent/guardian of a child who is to be excused from attending school due to the observance of a religious holiday must give notice at least five (5) days in advance of the absence to the child's principal.
- (6) Any child 16 years of age or older who is employed under paragraph (3) above and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program or an alternative learning opportunities program.

The parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled must authorize all absences from school and notify the school in advance or at the time of the student's absence. A valid cause for absence includes illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, other situations beyond the control of the student, other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health. or other reason as approved by the Superintendent or designee.

A “chronic or habitual truant” is a child subject to compulsory school attendance who is absent without valid cause for 5% or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

A “truant minor” is a chronic truant to whom supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic, intervention and remedial services, alternative programs and other school and community resources have been provided and have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy, or have been offered and refused.

### **Absenteeism and Truancy Program**

No changes at this time