

STUDENTS

Series 500

Policy Title Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

Code No. 501.09

The district believes that traditional, in-person school attendance leads to the greatest learning opportunities for students. Students who are present in school and engaged active learners take greater ownership over their educational outcomes. For this reason, it is the priority of the district to foster regular student attendance throughout the school year and reduce barriers to regular attendance for students in the district.

Chronic absenteeism/absences means any absence from school for more than ten percent of the days in the semester established by the district. Truant/truancy means a child of compulsory attendance age who is absent from school for any reason for at least twenty percent of the days in the semester.

Truancy does not apply to the following students who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- are attending religious services or qualifying receiving religious instruction in accordance with relevant laws;
- are unable to attend school due to legitimate medical reasons;
- has an individualized education program that affects the child's attendance;
- has a plan under section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, that affects the child's attendance;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving independent private instruction;
- are receiving competent private instruction;
- are a military applicant undergoing military entrance processing;
- are engaged in military service;
- are traveling to attend a funeral; or
- are traveling to attend a wedding.

Evidence may be shown in written or verbal communications with the building level administration. Reasonable travel time will be afforded for engaging in the exceptions listed above.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It is within the discretion of the principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy. Students receiving special education services will not be assigned to in-school suspension unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the designated school officials, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations will indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

This is a mandatory policy.

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. sec. 300
28 C.F.R. Pt. 35
Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299.

281 I.A.C. 12.3(4).

Cross Reference:	601.01	School Calendar
	604.01	Private Instruction

Approved: March 10, 2022 **Reviewed:** September 22, 2025 **Revised:** September 22, 2025