

STUDENTS

Policy 2340
(Regulation 2340)

Attendance

Truancy and Educational Neglect

The Board of Education believes regular attendance is important to academic success. Therefore, the Board directs that problems with attendance on the part of any student be investigated and acted upon promptly.

Truancy is defined as deliberate absence from school on the part of the pupil with or without the knowledge of the parent/guardian and for which no justifiable excuse is given. When a pattern of truancy becomes evident, the principal will investigate and take such action as circumstances dictate.

Section 210.115 R.S.Mo. mandates reporting to the Division of Family Services when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a student's nonattendance is due to the educational neglect of the parents/guardians.

Any school official or employee who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a student is being subjected to home conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in truancy will immediately report or cause a report to be made to the building principal, or his/her designee, who will then become responsible for making a report via the Student Abuse Hotline to the Missouri Division of Family Services (DFS). The building principal shall inform the Superintendent/designee that a report has been made, and keep the Superintendent apprised of the status of the case.

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Truancy and Educational Neglect Procedures

1. Section 210.1 15.R.S.Mo. mandates certain professionals to report to the Division of Family Services when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being subjected to home conditions which contribute to school nonattendance.

Along with other professionals mentioned, the law specifically mentions "teacher, principal or other school official" as well as "nurse" and "social worker."

2. School employees who suspect that a child is subject to educational neglect shall report this as soon as possible to the principal/designee.
3. The principal/designee shall review the report and confer with the parent/guardian to resolve the situation. When appropriate, a school counselor, social worker, or nurse may be instructed to offer appropriate social or health services which may be needed to intervene in the family circumstances.
4. If appropriate school intervention does not correct the student's truancy, and reasonable cause for educational neglect has been determined, the principal/designee shall call the Student Abuse Hotline of the Division of Family Services and report the alleged child educational neglect.
5. A report of this call shall be forwarded to the Superintendent or Central Office Student Services Administrator.