

## **STUDENTS**

### **ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY and CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

Regular and punctual student attendance in school is essential to the educational process. Connecticut state law requires parents or other persons having control of the child to cause their children, ages five through eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. To assist parents and other persons in meeting this responsibility, the Board of Education (the “Board”), through its Superintendent, will adopt and maintain procedures to implement this policy.

In order for students to develop to their full potential, the Board of Education deems it essential that students attend school on a regular basis. The learning experiences that occur in the classroom are considered to be meaningful and essential components of the learning process. Time lost from class tends to be irretrievable in terms of opportunity for instructional interaction. A student is considered to be “in attendance” if present at the student’s assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day.

### **TARDINESS**

Students who arrive later than the scheduled beginning of school or class period will be considered tardy. Tardiness may be explained by a parent or legal guardian but any absence from class will be considered as an accumulated absence and the student may lose credit on the high school level. Students tardy to school are responsible for work done in classes missed as well as assignments due.

### **DISMISSALS**

The Board of Education recognizes the need for students to be in school for the full instructional day. It is encouraged that early dismissal should be requested only in emergency or unusual situations. Requests for a release of a student during the school day originating outside the schools must be handled by the administration to ensure maximum provisions for the safety and welfare of the student.

When students need to be dismissed early from school, a written note signed by a parent or legal guardian must be provided to the main office prior to the start of school.

To assist parents and other persons in meeting this responsibility, the Board of Education (the “Board”), through its Superintendent, will adopt and maintain procedures to implement this policy.

In addition, the Board takes seriously the issue of chronic absenteeism. To address this issue, the Board, through its Superintendent, will adopt and maintain procedures regarding chronic absenteeism in accordance with state law.

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#### Legal Reference:

Public Act No. 23-160, “An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief and Other Technical and Assorted Revisions and Additions to the Education and Early Childhood Education Statutes.”

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-73d

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-220

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-184

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-186

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-198a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-198b

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-198c

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-198d

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-198e

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-198f

Guidelines for Reporting Student Attendance in the Public School Information System (Connecticut State Department of Education, January 2008)

Connecticut State Board of Education Memorandum, *Definitions of Excused and Unexcused Absences* (June 27, 2012)

Connecticut State Department of Education, *Guidelines for Implementation of the Definitions of Excused and Unexcused Absences and Best Practices for Absence Prevention and Intervention* (April 2013)

Connecticut State Department of Education, *Reducing Chronic Absence in Connecticut's Schools: A Prevention and Intervention Guide for Schools and Districts* (April 2017)

Connecticut State Department of Education Memorandum, *Youth Service Bureau Referral for Truancy and Defiance of School Rules* (February 22, 2018)

Connecticut State Department of Education, *Youth Service Bureau Referral Guide* (February 2018)

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Connecticut State Department of Education Memorandum, *Mental Health Wellness Days* (January 24, 2022)

Connecticut State Department of Education Memorandum, *Adoption of Definition of Remote Absence* (September 7, 2022)

Connecticut State Board of Education Resolution (September 7, 2022)

**Policy Adopted: 06/17/13**

**Policy Revised: 01/23/17, 11/23/20, 3/28/22, 12/19/22, 12/18/23, 12/16/24**