

COOK COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
Protocol Agreement for Truancy in Schools

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between the Cook County Attendance Protocol Committee; Cook County Juvenile Court ("Juvenile Court"), acting by and through Suzanne Mathis, Judge thereof; and the Cook County School System ("School District"), by and through its appropriate designee, which protocol shall become effective January 1, 2019 and shall remain in effect until otherwise altered, modified, or cancelled in writing.

WHEREAS, it appears to the undersigned that the absences and late arrivals of students on the school campuses is a major problem in the School District; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Georgia authorize the protocol to outline in detail methods for determining the cause of failing to comply with compulsory attendance and appropriately addressing the issue with children and their parents or guardians; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Court of Cook County, Georgia has jurisdiction over violations of the compulsory attendance law committed by any child under the age of 16; and

WHEREAS, the Probate Court of Cook County, Georgia has jurisdiction over violations of the compulsory attendance law committed by parents or guardians of students, and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto desire to minimize the occasions of failure to comply with the compulsory attendance laws; and

WHEREAS, it also appears to the undersigned that a uniform method of procedures dealing with said failure to comply with the compulsory school attendance law prior to filing complaints with the Juvenile Court and Probate Court is necessary.

NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned parties do hereby agree as follows:

The below procedures will be followed by the School District in addressing cases of truancy. Prior to initiating any complaints with the Juvenile Court, any other Court, the Solicitor General for prosecution of parents in Probate Court of Cook County, or any other government agency who may be involved or associated with truancy matters, the School District will appoint a designated School District employee ("Records Custodian") to collect and maintain any and all documentary evidence that may be required by state law or used in Court proceedings. This individual may be the School District's Truancy Officer or System Social Worker. At the School District's option, there may be a separate records custodian for each school within the District.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

The School District will notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has legal control or charge of the student when such student has three unexcused absences. The notice will outline the penalty and consequences of such absences and that each subsequent absence will constitute a separate offense.

If a parent meeting is required, written notification will be delivered by a School Resource Officer (SRO) to such parent, guardian, or other person who has legal control or charge of the student. Signature by the parent, guardian, or other person who has legal control or charge of the student will be required to indicate receipt of the notification.

ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

By September of each school year or within 30 school days of a student's enrollment in the School District, the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of such student must sign a statement indicating receipt of the written statement of possible consequences and penalties. After two reasonable attempts by the School District to secure such signatures, the School District shall be considered in compliance with this requirement.

In addition, students age ten or older by September 1 must sign a statement indicating receipt of written statement of possible consequences for non-compliance with the local School District's policy.

PROCEDURES FOR INITIATING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

After a student has ten or more unexcused absences, the School District's designee or SRO may refer a parent to the Probate Court for citation and to the Solicitor General for prosecution under the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Statute if it is suspected that the parent or guardian is the cause of the student's absence. At the Probate Court's discretion, parents may receive a fine of not more than \$250, up to 30 days of confinement in jail, community service, or any combination thereof for each offense.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the undersigned has affixed their hand and seal on the date written.

COOK COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

By: *Suzanne Mathis* *1/10/19*
Suzanne Mathis, Judge Date

COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: *[Signature]* *1-14-19*
Name: _____ Date
Title: _____

COOK COUNTY ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

By: *Capt T. Agnew* *1-11-19*
Name: *Troy Agnew*
Title: *Captain*
Chief S.R.D.