

TRUANCY

If a student is absent without an excuse signed by the parent/guardian or if the student leaves school or a class without permission of the teacher or administrator in charge, the student shall be considered truant. An “habitual truant” shall be defined as a student of compulsory attendance age who has four total days of unexcused absences from school in any one month or 10 total days of unexcused absences during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion shall not be counted in the total of unexcused absences for purposes of defining a student as an “habitual truant”.

Centennial BOCES shall establish a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences. When a student fails to report on a regularly scheduled school day and Centennial BOCES personnel have received no indication that the parent/guardian is aware of the absence, Centennial BOCES personnel or volunteers under the direction of Centennial BOCES personnel shall make a reasonable effort to notify the parent/guardian by telephone.

A plan shall be developed for a student who is at risk of being declared habitually truant with the goal of assisting the child to remain in school and shall include a conference with the parent/guardian and student to determine the conditions under which the student will be re-admitted.

In accordance with law, Centennial BOCES may impose appropriate penalties that relate directly to classes missed while truant. Penalties may include a warning, school detention or in-school suspension.

In general, the procedure for handling truancy shall be as follows:

1. First truancy – Reasonable effort will be made to contact parent/guardian and both parent/guardian and student shall be made aware that truancy may result in suspension.
2. Second truancy - May include suspension for the maximum period allowable under the law or until parents/guardians bring the student for re-admittance.
3. Third truancy - May result in an additional suspension. Centennial BOCES may also pursue judicial proceedings to compel attendance. However, before initiating court proceedings, Centennial BOCES shall provide written notice to the student and parent/guardian that Centennial BOCES will initiate court proceeding if the student doesn't comply with the compulsory attendance law.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-33-104 compulsory school attendance
C.R.S. 22-33-105 suspension/expulsion
C.R.S. 22-33-107 enforcement of compulsory school attendance
C.R.S. 22-33-108 judicial proceedings to enforce school attendance laws
1 CCR 301-78 Rules 1.00 et seq. standardized calculation for counting student attendance and truancy

CROSS REF.: JH, Student Absences and Excuses

Revised: September 20, 2018
Reviewed: CASB 2005
Centennial BOCES