

TRUANCY

Repeated unexcused absences will result in parent or legal guardian notification, and legal action will be taken under Chapter 118 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Disciplinary action through the school will also be taken.

The following steps will constitute the truancy plan of the Deerfield Community School District.

1. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of all students having an unexcused partial or full day absence should be notified within 24 hours of the discovery of the absence. If a personal contact is not made within the 24 hours, a letter will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
2. After the second unexcused absence the school will send a letter to the parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting a meeting to discuss the truancy, contributing factors, school policy and potential consequences.
3. When any student has three unexcused partial or full day absences in a school semester, the school shall arrange a meeting that includes appropriate school staff, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and student. At this meeting, the participants will determine the factors contributing to the truancy. Educational options and support services, such as curriculum modification, alternative school programs, EEN referral, and special counseling will be explored.

The end result of the meeting should be the development of a mutually agreed upon plan to deal with the issues identified. Subsequent to this meeting the student will be referred to the appropriate building "at risk" committee for development of the above noted plan.

The school will also inform the family of the penalties for not cooperating in efforts to address the truancy problem. All parties will receive written information that explains possible school and community consequences for habitual truancy under Chapters 118 and 48 of the state statutes.

4. If truant behavior continues to the extent that the student becomes habitually truant, defined as "a student who is absent from school without acceptable excuse under sec. 118.16(4) and sec. 118.15 for either of the following: part or all of five or more days in which school is held during a school semester. (Ref. sec. 48.01(9m) sec. 118.16(1)(a), the school will send the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) a certified letter outlining the parent(s)/guardian(s) legal responsibility regarding regular attendance, potential for educational program modifications as an identified "at risk" student, request for a meeting regarding the truancy, a statement of potential penalties that may be imposed on parent(s)/guardian(s) and the pending referral to court and/or Human Services Department of Dane County.

REFERENCES: WIS. S.S. Sec. 48.24
 Sec. 48.01(9m)
 Sec. 118.16(1)(a)
 Sec. 118.16(4)
 Sec. 118.15
 Sec. 118.16(2)(cr)
 Sec. 118.15(5)
 Sec. 118.162