

Board Policy

Code No. 501.10

TRUANCY - UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the educational program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is necessary. Students shall attend school unless excused by the building administrator/designee.

Truancy is the failure to attend school for the minimum number of days established in the school policy by the Board. Truancy or unexcused absence is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse as determined by the building administrator/designee. The following are representative reasons that will be considered unexcused absence (absence for reasons other than listed under excused absence per Board Policy 501.9):

1. Absence without permission of the building administrator/designee;
2. Family vacations which have not been given prior approval by the building administrator/designee;
3. Work outside of school (either for parent or other) when not approved by building administrator/designee, or
4. Leaving school without administrator/designee approval.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It is within the discretion of the principal and/or designee to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy. Students receiving special education services will not be assigned to supervised study hall, in-school suspension, etc. unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

When the student's absence is caused by a suspension or expulsion, such absence will be treated as an administrative absence rather than an unexcused or excused absence and will be included as part of the attendance requirement as stipulated in Board Policy 501.13 for students.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations will indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299 (2011).
281 I.A.C. 12.2(4).

Cross Reference:

501	Student Attendance
503	Student Discipline
504	Student Activities
506	Student Records

Approved: June 15, 1992

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