

Students

Truancy

The Capitol Region Education Council believes that regular school attendance is essential to the academic success of students. The Executive Director is authorized to establish procedures for monitoring school attendance so as to identify students ages 5-18 inclusive who are truant and to enlist the cooperation of the LEA, of parents and, when necessary, the juvenile justice system, in order to address the problem when it arises.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents (as amended by PA 98-243).

10-198a through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general.

10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.

10-221(b) Board of education to prescribe rules. *Campbell v New Milford*, 193 Conn 93 (1984).

Policy adopted: June 18, 2003

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL
Hartford, Connecticut

Students

Truancy

Monitoring Attendance/Truancy

In accordance with the Truancy Policy of the CREC Council, the following procedures are hereby adopted.

Definitions

“Truant” means a child ages 5-18 inclusive who has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year.

“Parent” means the parent, guardian, or other person having control of a child.

"Chronically absent child" is an enrolled student whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year.

"Absence" means an excused absence, unexcused absence or disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the State Board of Education..

"District chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of chronically absent children in the previous school year divided by the total number of children under the jurisdiction of the CREC Council for such school year.

"School chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of chronically absent children for a school in the previous school year divided by the total number of children enrolled in such school for such school year.

Remediation of Truancy

1. When a student is identified as a truant, the Executive Director or his/her designee will conduct a meeting with the parent, the LEA, the student, if appropriate, and with such school personnel whose involvement is deemed appropriate by the Executive Director or his/her designee. The meeting will occur not later than ten (10) school days after the child's fourth (4th) unexcused absence in a month or tenth (10th) unexcused absence in a school year and will be for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the reasons for truancy.
2. The parents of each student attending a CREC school or program will be notified in writing annually at the beginning of the school year of their statutory obligation to insure that their child attends school. Annually at the beginning of the school year and upon any enrollment during the school year, CREC will obtain from the parent of each student a telephone number or other means of contacting such parent during the school day.
2. Each CREC school or program serving students ages 5-18 inclusive shall develop and submit annually to the Executive Director or his/her designee a system of monitoring individual unexcused absences of students. Such system shall provide that whenever a child

enrolled in a CREC school or program fails to attend on a regularly scheduled school day, and there is no indication that the child's parent is aware of the absence, a reasonable effort to notify the parent, by telephone and by mail, shall be made by school or program personnel or volunteers under the direction of school or program personnel.

3. CREC shall, in cooperation with LEAs, coordinate services with, and referrals of students to, community agencies providing child and family services.
4. On or before 8/15/2018, CREC shall implement a truancy intervention model identified by the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) for any school within the district that has a disproportionately high rate of truancy, as identified by the Commissioner of Education.

Chronic Absenteeism

In accordance with state statute, attendance review teams shall be established as follows:

1. A district team must be established when the district's chronic absenteeism rate is 10 percent or higher.
2. A school team must be established when a school's chronic absenteeism rate is 15 percent or higher.
3. Either a district team or a school team for each affected school must be established when (a) more than one school in the district has a chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or higher; or (b) the district has a chronic absenteeism rate of 10 percent or higher and one or more schools in the district have a chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or higher.

The membership of attendance review teams may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers, chronically absent children, parents or guardians of chronically absent children, and representatives from community-based programs who address issues related to student attendance by providing programs and services to truants.

Each attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of truants and chronically absent children; discussing school interventions and community referrals for such truants and chronically absent children; and making any additional recommendations for such truants and chronically absent children and their parents or guardians. Each attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

The district shall utilize the chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan developed by the State Department of Education when it becomes available.

Reports/Referrals

Reports/Referrals

The number of truant and chronically absent children shall be included in the annual strategic school and district profile reports submitted to the Commissioner of Education.

The principal or designee of any elementary or middle school located in a town/city designated as an alliance district may refer a parent/guardian with a child defined as a truant or who is at risk of becoming a truant to the children's truancy clinic established by the Probate Court serving such town/city.

Regulation approved: June 18, 2003
Revised: September 18, 2013
Revised: October 15, 2014
Revised: October 16, 2016
Revised: September 20, 2017

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL
Hartford, Connecticut

NOTIFICATION OF PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER C.G.S. 10-184

Dear: _____

Connecticut law requires that the Capitol Region Education Council annually provide you with this written notice of your obligations under Connecticut General Statute 10-184 (copy attached). This law provides that each parent or other person having control of a child five years of age and older and under eighteen years of age is obligated to cause the child to attend school regularly during the hours and terms school is in session, unless such parent or other person shows that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction. Connecticut General Statute 10-185 provides that each day's failures to comply with these requirements are a separate offense, punishable by a \$25.00 fine.

Regular student attendance is essential to the educational process. So that we may seek to inform you if your child is absent without explanation, the law also requires, that we obtain from you a telephone number or other means of contacting you during the school day. Please meet this obligation by filling out and promptly returning the form below.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

(Program Director)

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Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Telephone number where you might be reached during the school day: _____

Name(s) of students:

