

SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRUANCY - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students will attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Any enrolled student who is absent from school without the knowledge and permission of the parent/guardian or the knowledge of school authorities will be considered truant. Any student who is absent from school without approval more than five (5) days in part or whole during any one semester will be considered a chronic truant.

Truancy is the failure to attend school for the minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the Board. Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse. These absences will include, but not be limited to, tardiness, shopping, hunting, concerts, preparation or participation in parties and other celebrations, and employment. Truancy will not be tolerated by the Board.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy. It will be within the discretion of the principal/assistant principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy.

A concentrated effort will be made to prevent and remedy truancy in its early stages. School personnel, wherever possible and as much as possible, will seek the cooperation from parents/guardians in remedying truancy. In an attempt to keep the channels of communication open, the parent/guardian of a student will be contacted in every instance of a suspected unexcused absence or truancy.

The principal, assistant principal, counselor(s), and/or social worker will work together to determine the cause for a student's truancy. If they are unable to secure the truant student's attendance, they should discuss the next step with the Superintendent. If after this action, the student is still truant, the principal or assistant principal will refer the matter to the county attorney. The principal or the assistant principal, or designee, will represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

It will be 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.

Approved: March 17, 1997

Reviewed: January 2014

Revised: July 2010