

Book

BOARD POLICIES

Section

STUDENT POLICIES

Title

Truancy

Number

Status

Pending Board Approval

Adopted

Truancy

USOE Admin. Code R277-607; 609; 610; 419; 438, Utah Compulsory Attendance

1. PURPOSE

To empower all students to function effectively in the society in which they live, the Bonneville Academy Board of Directors (Board) promotes and encourages regular school attendance of all students. This policy articulates circumstances under which a student may be excused or exempted from school attendance and to support the Academy Director in developing and implementing appropriate attendance plans and implementation of appropriate interventions when students are truant.

2. THE POLICY

It is the policy of the Bonneville Academy Board of Directors to comply with state compulsory education law for students between the ages of six and 18. The board recognizes that regular school attendance facilitates academic achievement by maximizing the interaction between students and teachers. The process of education requires a continuity of instruction, class participation, learning experience, and study.

The Board, therefore, delegates to the Academy Director for developing a comprehensive plan that follows this policy and state requirements, promotes and monitors regular student attendance, and defines interventions and consequences for students who are truant. The Academy Director and staff are expected to encourage students to develop attendance habits that will enhance opportunities for future success and meet federal and state accountability standards.

Recording Attendance: Classroom teachers will take daily attendance and accurately record each student's attendance or absence from each class and/or the entire school day. The Academy attendance secretary and designated staff will work with teachers and to ensure that accurate attendance data is maintained as a part of each student's official school record.

Excused Absence: The board recognizes that students may be excused from school attendance for valid and legitimate reasons. Reasons to excuse absences include: student's illness; medical appointments; family emergencies; death of a family member or close friend; family activity or travel with prior approval of and arrangements with the Academy Director; or observance of religious holidays.

Unexcused Absence: A student's absence is considered unexcused until a parent, guardian, or appropriate school authority provides a valid and legitimate reason for that absence. The Academy Director has the authority to determine whether a student's absence is excused or unexcused. He or she may require a doctor's note to excuse absences due to illness if such absences exceed eight days.

Hospital and Homebound Services: A student who is currently enrolled in Bonneville Academy, is confined to home or hospitalized, and has been absent or expects to be absent for more than 10 consecutive school days due to an illness, injury, or disability, may qualify for the hospital/homebound program. A written request for services is required from the student's attending physician and should be provided to the academy as soon as possible.

Truancy Notification and Citation Letters, and Court Referral: The Board authorizes The Academy Director or their designees, to issue a truancy notification and citation letter to a student who is chronically absent from school without a valid excuse, as described above. Truancy citations may be appealed to the Board. After ten or more days, or the equivalent number of class periods unexcused absence within a school year and after receiving two truancy notification and citation letters, a student is considered habitually truant. Parents or guardians of habitually truant students under the age of 12

may be referred to the Tooele County District Attorney. Students between the ages of 12 and 16 may be referred to the Tooele County Third District Juvenile Court.