

Truancy Policy

As provided under Nevada law, all children between the ages of 7 and 18 years must attend a school. IICSN's regulations require that within three (3) days after a child returns to school from an absence, a notice from the parent/guardian must be provided to the school explaining why the child was physically or mentally unable to attend or, if an emergency arose, the nature of the emergency. Failure to do so will result in the absence being declared a truancy.

When a student is absent from school without a valid excuse, did not secure prior permission for the absence, or did not make up the class work for the absence, the absence is considered unexcused. In addition, failure to provide an excuse to the school within three (3) school days will result in an unexcused absence. In accordance with Nevada law, an unexcused absence is deemed to be a truancy issue.

Any student who has been declared truant three (3) or more times within one school year must be declared a HABITUAL truant. Nevada law required that habitual truants be reported to law enforcement. A citation by a law enforcement agency can result in fines of \$100 or more; required community service; suspension of a child's driver's license or future privilege of obtaining a license; referral of the parent to law enforcement; and/or referral of the parent for educational neglect to Child Protective Services.

Excessive absenteeism and/or truancy could result in the student failing, denial of credit, a referral to an alternative education program, and/or retention in the current grade level. School personnel are willing to work with the parent/guardian to determine the cause of the absence (s) and establish a pattern of regular attendance at school for the child and his/her family.

Innovations will follow the truancy laws set forth by Nevada and the Clark County School District. The following shared information notes the definition of truancy and the policies deemed necessary to care for these issues.

When a student is absent from school without a valid excuse, does not secure prior permission for the absences, or did not make up the work for the class during the absences, the absence is considered unexcused. In addition, failure to provide an excuse within three (3) school days will result in an unexcused absence and is deemed to be a truancy.

When a student exceeds two (2) unexcused absence (truancies), the student is declared a habitual truant. The school must report these students to the local law enforcement agency to file an education neglect complaint with CPS for elementary students or the issuance of a truancy citation for secondary students.

Elementary school truancy violations will be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) for investigation. The possible consequences that may be imposed for secondary violators are as follows:

- First Offense: supervision by a probation officer or warning

- Second Offense: court appearance, 8 – 16 hours of community service at the school of attendance, suspension of the student's driver's license for 30 days to 6 months or a delay of 30 days from the date a student can apply for a first time license and/or a fine of \$100
- The consequences for a secondary student who is issued a misdemeanor truancy citation cannot be appealed through the school
- Failure of a parent/guardian to comply with these truancy issues will result in the parent receiving a misdemeanor count against him/her

If a secondary student is deemed a habitual truant or tardy, the school administrator may report the student to an advisory attendance review board, designated by the Board of Trustees. This report shall include the dates of truancy and all actions taken by the school to assist and encourage the student to attend school. The administrator will notify the parent/guardian of this report and request written permission to release the student's records to the advisory board. If the parent refuses to sign a release of records, the administrator shall report the student to a local law enforcement agency in accordance with NRS 392.142. The school shall provide written notice of the referral to the parent/guardian of the student that must include the name address of the student, explanation of the referral, and a summary of the attendance review process. Per SB 269, students who have three (3) or more unapproved absences may be deemed a habitual truant, issued a truancy citation, and suffer a suspension of their driver's license for thirty (30) days for the first offense and sixty (60) days for the second offense. Students who do not have a valid driver's license will not be eligible to apply for a learner's permit or a driver's license. Once they become eligible to apply, the permit/license will be revoked for thirty (30) days for the first offense and sixty (60) days for the second offense.

If a habitually truant student is cited a second time for truancy, further disciplinary issues will result in the form of a misdemeanor or citation. The consequences for subsequent citations could be an assignment of additional days of community service, court assigned curfew and/or house arrest; 60 days to 1-year suspension of driving privileges, suspension of work permit and \$200 fine. In addition, if the parent/guardian to whom the notice of the habitual truancy has been given fails to prevent the child's subsequent truancy within that year, the parent/guardian is found guilty of a misdemeanor.

Habitual truancy, education neglect, and/or subsequent truancy or educational neglect constitutes citations by local law enforcement and a Request for Summons to be filed and served. A Request for Summons is a written notification for the parent and child to appear in court before a judge to defend and answer questions regarding the truancy issues involving the student and his/her family. Failure to appear in court and/or comply with the court's decision will result in further disciplinary actions put forth by the judge up to and including possible jail time.

Notification Of Absence

Notifications of student absences will be made to the parent/guardian of students as recorded in Infinite Campus, the school's student information system. This will be done for each unverified absence.

In the event of an unapproved absence, the registrar or administrator will deliver or cause delivery of a written notice of truancy to the parent/guardian or other person having control or charge of the student (NRS 392.130(4)).

Makeup Work

After any absence, the parent/guardian is responsible to contact the school to obtain appropriate makeup work. This must be done within one (1) day directly following the absence. Once contact has been made, the nature of the makeup work will be communicated to the student and parent/guardian. Students will be given three (3) school days to complete makeup work and return it to school to be graded. **Failure to complete the makeup work by the student for an excused absence within the maximum of three (3) days will result in an unexcused absence counting toward the limitation of absences.**

This policy is applicable to students participating in a program of special education or a Section 504 Plan, but subject to the student's IEP or 504 Plan and in accordance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act.

**** Please allow at least 24 hours from the time of the parent/guardian request to prepare a student's makeup assignments. All makeup work will be left in the school's offices to make it easier for the parent to retrieve.