

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Parents within the school district who have children over age six and under age sixteen by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, will have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the board. Students will attend school the number of days or hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 160 days or 1,065 hours. Students not attending the minimum days or hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are unable to attend school due to legitimate medical reasons;
- has an individualized education program that affects the child's attendance;
- has a plan under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 29 U.S.C. §794, that affects the child's attendance;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving independent private instruction; or,
- are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

Note: This is a mandatory policy. The compulsory attendance law does not require school districts to have a truancy officer.

Note: The compulsory attendance law does not require school districts to have a truancy officer.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 259A; 279.10-.11; 299; 299A.

Approved December 11, 2017 Reviewed March 13, 2023 Revised _____

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY

The district believes that traditional, in-person school attendance leads to the greatest learning opportunities for students. Students who are present in school and engaged active learners take greater ownership over their educational outcomes. For this reason, it is the priority of the district to foster regular student attendance throughout the school year and reduce barriers to regular attendance for students in the district.

Chronic absenteeism/absences means any absence from school for more than ten percent of the hours in the semester established by the district.

Truant/truancy means a child of compulsory attendance age who is absent from school for any reason for at least twenty percent of the hours in the semester grading period. Truancy does not apply to the following students who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or has obtained a high school equivalency diploma are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending a private college preparatory school accredited or probationally accredited;
- are excused under *Iowa Code* §299.22; and
- are exempt under *Iowa Code* §299.24.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It is within the discretion of the principal 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 unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

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

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. sec. 300
28 C.F.R. Pt. 35
Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299.
281 I.A.C. 12.3(4).

I.C. Iowa Code

Iowa Code § 294.4

Iowa Code § 299

Description

[Teachers - Daily Register](#)

[Compulsory Education](#)

I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code

281 I.A.C. 12.3

C.F.R. - Code of Federal Regulations

28 C.F.R. 35

34 C.F.R. Pt. 300

Description

[Administration](#)

Description

[Judicial - Disability - Nondiscrimination](#)

[Education - Disabilities/Children/Assistance to States](#)

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY--REGULATION

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience. The education that goes on in the classroom builds from day to day and absences can cause disruption in the educational progress of the absent student. Irregular attendance or tardiness by students not only limits their own studies, but also interferes with the progress of those students who are regular and prompt in attendance. Attendance is a shared responsibility that requires cooperation and communication among students, parents and the school.

This regulation is divided into two sections: Section I addresses legal requirements related to chronic absenteeism and truancy and Section II addresses additional academic, disciplinary and extracurricular consequences students face due to chronic absenteeism and truancy. It is important for students to recognize that chronic absenteeism and truancy impacts all these facets of their educational experience.

SECTION I – Legal Requirements

Chronic Absenteeism

When a student meets the threshold to be considered chronically absent, the school official will send notice by mail or e-mail to the county attorney where the district's central office is located. The school official will also notify the student, or if a minor, the student's parent, guardian or legal or actual custodian via certified mail that includes information related to the student's absences from school and the policies and disciplinary processes associated with additional absences.

School officials will send notice when the student's absences meet the threshold, but before the student is deemed chronically absent.

School Engagement Meeting

If a student is absent from school for at least fifteen percent of the days in the grading period, the school official will attempt to find the cause of the absences and start and participate in a school engagement meeting. All of the following individuals must participate in the school engagement meeting:

- The student;
- The student's parent, guardian or legal or actual custodian if the student is an unemancipated minor; and
- A school official.

The purpose of the meeting is to understand the reasons for the student's absences and attempt to remove barriers to the student's ongoing absences; and to create and sign an absenteeism prevention plan.

Absenteeism Prevention Plan

The absenteeism prevention plan will identify the causes of the student's absences and the future responsibilities of each participant. The school official will contact the student and student's parent/guardian at least once per week for the remainder of the school year to monitor the performance of the student and the student's parent/guardian under the plan. If the student and student's parent/guardian do not attend the meeting, do not enter into a plan or violate the terms of the plan, the school official will notify the county attorney.

SECTION II – Academic and Disciplinary Requirements

Students who are absent without a reasonable excuse, as determined by the principal, will be assigned to supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary sanction. Reasonable excuses include illness, family emergencies, recognized religious observances and school-sponsored or approved activities. Reasonable excuses may also include family trips or vacations approved by the building principal if the student's work is finished prior to the trip or vacation. Supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension, or other appropriate disciplinary sanction will be assigned on a two-for-one basis.

A student who is unexcused for one or more classes for less than a whole school day, will be assigned to supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension or other appropriate disciplinary sanction for the next two days during the class period(s) missed. If a student is unexcused for a whole day of classes, he or she will spend the next two days in supervised study hall, detention, early bird school, Saturday school, in-school suspension or other appropriate disciplinary sanction. Parents are expected to telephone the school office to report a student's absence prior to 8 a.m. on the day of the absence. Students with unexcused absences may also be referred to the at-risk coordinator.

School work missed because of absences must be made up within two times the number of days absent, not to exceed 10 days. The time allowed for make-up work may be extended at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Students will be allowed to make up all work missed due to any absence and will receive full credit for make-up work handed in on time. Teachers will not have attendance or grading practices that are in conflict with this provision.

I.C. Iowa Code

Iowa Code § 294.4

Iowa Code § 299

I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code

281 I.A.C. 12.3

C.F.R. - Code of Federal Regulations

Description

[Teachers - Daily Register](#)

[Compulsory Education](#)

Description

[Administration](#)

Description

28 C.F.R. 35
34 C.F.R. Pt. 300

[Judicial - Disability - Nondiscrimination](#)
[Education - Disabilities/Children/Assistance to States](#)

WEAPONS

The board believes weapons, other dangerous objects and look-a-likes in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons, dangerous objects and look-a-likes. Weapons and other dangerous objects and look-a-likes will be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents of students found to possess weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes on school property are notified of the incident. Possession or confiscation of weapons, dangerous objects or look-a-likes will be reported to law enforcement officials, and students will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing firearms to school or knowingly possessing firearms at school will be expelled for not less than one year. The superintendent has the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for students on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes, but is not limited to, any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, any explosive, incendiary or poison gas, or otherwise defined by applicable law.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials or other individuals specifically authorized by the board are exempt from this policy. Students and individuals approved in writing by the Superintendent who are actively engaging in a school district approved firearms safety course, hunter education course or shooting sports activity are exempt from this policy. The superintendent will develop an administrative process or procedures to implement the policy and communicate with law enforcement relevant exemptions to this policy as appropriate.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

NOTE: The board may specifically authorize individuals to be armed with, carry, or transport a firearm on school grounds under limited circumstances outlined in law. Reasons for this authorization may include, conducting instructional programs regarding firearms or for conducting an Iowa Department of Natural Resources approved hunter education course or shooting sports activities course on school property.

Legal Reference: 18 U.S.C. § 921
Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21B; 483A.27(11), 724
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

I.C. Iowa Code	Description
Iowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees
Iowa Code § 280.21B	Expulsion-weapons
Iowa Code § 483A.27	Hunter Education Program
Iowa Code § 724	Weapons
I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code	Description
281 I.A.C. 12.3	Administration
U.S.C. - United States Code	Description
18 U.S.C. § 921	Crimes - Criminal Procedures - Firearms

STUDENT PROMOTION - RETENTION - ACCELERATION

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

The district shall adhere to the following:

- **Retention/Promotion in kindergarten – eighth grade:** The retention of a student will be determined based upon the judgment of the district's professional staff. When it becomes evident a student in grades kindergarten through eight may be retained in a grade level for an additional year, the parents will be informed prior to making the retention decision. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- **Retention/Promotion in ninth – twelfth grade:** Students in grades nine through twelve will be informed of the required coursework necessary to be promoted each year. When it becomes evident a student in these grades will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, the student and parents will be informed. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- **Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade:** Students in grades kindergarten through twelve with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements.
- **Retention or Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade** may also occur in additional instances as provided by law.

For students in grades kindergarten through sixth, if a student is not reading at a proficient level, the district will notify a student's parent or guardian of the student's reading level, and the option for parents to request that the student be retained in the student's current grade level for the subsequent school year. The district is prohibited from promoting a student to the next grade level if the student is not reading proficiently, and the student's parent or guardian requests the student be retained at their current grade level for the next year.

Any student or parent who is not satisfied with the decision of the district's professional staff may seek recourse through policy 502.4 – Student Complaints and Grievances.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .41; 279.8; .68.
281 I.A.C. 12.5(16).

I.C. Iowa Code	Description
Iowa Code § 256.11	DE - Educational Standards
Iowa Code § 256.41	DE - Online Learning Requirements
Iowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees
Iowa code §279.68	Student Progression-intensive reading instruction-reporting requirements
I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code	Description
281 I.A.C. 12.5	General Accreditation Standards - Education Program
Cross References	
Code	Description
410.02	Summer School Licensed Employees
603.02	Summer School Instruction

BASIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The basic instruction program will include the courses required for each grade level by the Iowa Department of Education. The instructional approach will be gender fair and multicultural.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in kindergarten is designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits, language arts and communication skills, the capacity to complete individual tasks, character education and the ability to protect and increase physical well-being with attention given to experiences relating to the development of life skills and human growth and development.

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades one through six will include English-language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, physical education, traffic safety, music, visual art and computer science. Computer science will be offered during at least one grade level

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades seven and eight will include English-language arts, social studies including instruction related to civics, mathematics, science, health, human growth and development, family and consumer, career, technology education, physical education, music, visual art and computer science. Computer science will be offered during at least one grade level

The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades nine through twelve will include English language arts (6 units), social studies (5 units), mathematics (6 units), science (5 units), health (1 unit), physical education (1 unit), fine arts (3 units), foreign language (4 units), financial literacy (1/2 unit) and vocational education (12 units) and computer science (1/2 unit).

The board may, in its discretion, offer additional courses in the instruction program for any grade level.

Each instruction program is carefully planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the board or superintendent. Each instruction program's plan should describe the program, its goals, the effective materials, the activities and the method for student evaluation.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations stating the required courses and optional courses for kindergarten, grades one through six, grades seven and eight, and grades nine through twelve.

NOTE: This policy reflects the educational standards. The financial literacy requirement is effective with the 2021 graduation class. The computer science requirement for grades one through eight are effective with the school year beginning July 1, 2023. The computer science requirement for grades nine through twelve is effective with the school year beginning July 1, 2022. Districts must also develop and implement a kindergarten through grade twelve computer science plan by July 1, 2022 which incorporates the educational standards.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h.
 34 C.F.R. Pt. 98.
 Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 256.11; 279.8; 280.3-.14.
 281 I.A.C. 12.5, 11.

I.C. Iowa Code	Description
Iowa Code § 216.9	Unfair/Discriminatory Practices
Iowa Code § 256.11	DE - Educational Standards
Iowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees
Iowa Code § 280	Uniform School Requirements
I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code	Description
281 I.A.C. 12.11	General Accreditation Standards - Computer Science
281 I.A.C. 12.5	General Accreditation Standards - Education Program
U.S.C. - United States Code	Description
20 U.S.C. § 1232h	Education - Protection of Pupil Rights
C.F.R. - Code of Federal Regulations	Description
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98	Education - Research, Experimental Programs, Testing - Student Rights

Cross References

Code	Description
102	Equal Educational Opportunity
102-R(1)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Grievance Procedure
102-E(1)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination
102-E(2)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination
102-E(3)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Notice of Section 504 Student and Parental Rights
102-E(4)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Discrimination Complaint Form
102-E(5)	Equal Educational Opportunity - Witness Disclosure Form
103	Long-Range Needs Assessment
103-R(1)	Long-Range Needs Assessment - Regulation
903.02	Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COUNSELING

The district believes in the importance of education to shape the lives of all students. Some students may consider postsecondary education and training beyond their secondary education, and have questions related to the cost of education programs and the future employability of graduates. It is valuable for students who express an interest in postsecondary education to make informed decisions related to their future options.

The district will ensure that students in grades eleven and twelve who express interest in postsecondary education will be provided with basic information to assist in their decision-making. This information includes but may not be limited to:

- A link to the annual report published by the State Board of Regents pursuant to *Iowa Code 262.9(38)*; and
- a link to the Iowa Student Outcomes internet site maintained by the Department of Education.

If the district employs a college and career transition counselor, this staff member will provide the information to interested students. If the district does not employ this type of counselor, the superintendent will designate a staff member to ensure this information is provided to interested students.

Legal Reference :	Iowa Code § 279
-------------------	-----------------

Cross References

Code	Description
603.07	Career Education

WEAPONS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The board believes weapons, other dangerous objects and look-a-likes in school district facilities and at school district-approved events cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

All weapons, dangerous objects and look-a-likes are prohibited to be carried, possessed, transported or otherwise stored on school district property and to school district-approved events. Exceptions to this policy include weapons carried by the following individuals in performance of their official duties:

- law enforcement;
- military personnel;
- corrections officers;
- individuals approved in writing by the Superintendent;
- students and individuals approved in writing by the Superintendent who are actively engaging in a school district approved firearms safety course, hunter education course or shooting sports activity; and
- School security officers and/or school resource officers in accordance with all applicable laws.

Individuals found to be in violation of this district policy will be required to immediately remove the weapon, dangerous object or look-a-likes from the school district property or event. Students found to be in violation of this policy or any other board policies related to weapons will be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Employees found in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

The district shall not authorize staff members to carry firearms on school grounds in accordance with Iowa Code 724.6.

Note: The legislature made changes to decriminalize the carrying of firearms on campus by certain individuals if certain circumstances are met. However, much like creating tobacco-free campuses, schools maintain the authority to choose whether to place additional limitations on the carrying of firearms on district property as needed to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

NOTE: Districts that wish to consider arming staff should work closely with their insurance providers and legal counsel to craft appropriate regulations necessary to fit this option. Any regulations should be customized to suit the needs of individual districts, and developed closely with input from the same stakeholders the district uses to craft their emergency operations plans.

Legal Reference: 18 U.S.C. § 921
Iowa Code §§ 279.8; .84; 280.21B; 483A.27(11), 724
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6)

I.C. Iowa Code	Description
Iowa Code § 279.8	Directors - General Rules - Bonds of Employees
Iowa Code § 280.21B	Expulsion-weapons
Iowa Code § 483A.27	Hunter Education Program
Iowa Code § 724	Weapons
I.A.C. Iowa Administrative Code	Description
281 I.A.C. 12.3	Administration
U.S.C. - United States Code	Description
18 U.S.C. § 921	Crimes - Criminal Procedures - Firearms