

**JBE**

**TRUANCY** (See AEB, IDCE, JBD, and JQ)

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Unless reporting would violate the terms of any memorandum of understanding between the district and the authority to which reports would be made, the building principal (or \_\_\_\_ ) shall report students who are inexcusably absent from school to the appropriate authority.

Truancy is defined as any three consecutive unexcused absences, any five unexcused absences in a semester, or seven unexcused absences in a school year, whichever comes first. School year means the period from July 1 to June 30. Students who are absent without a valid excuse for a significant part of any school day shall be considered truant.

Prior to reporting to either the Department for Children and Families (if the student is under 13) or the county or district attorney (if the student is 13 or more years of age but less than 18 years of age), a letter shall be sent to the student's parent(s) or guardian notifying them that the student's failure to attend school without a valid excuse shall result in the student being reported truant.

**Waiver of Compulsory Attendance Requirements**

Students 16 or 17 years of age may be exempt from compulsory attendance regulations if the parent(s) or person acting as parent attend(s) the counseling session required by law and signs the appropriate consent and waiver form; if the student earns a GED; or if the student is exempt from compulsory attendance requirements pursuant to a court order.

**Involvement of Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement officers may return truant children to the school where the child is enrolled, to the child's parent or guardian, or to another location designated by the board to address truancy issues.

**Reporting to Parents**

If a truant child is returned to school by a law enforcement official, the principal shall notify the parent or guardian.

**Dual Enrollment Students**

Eligible students who are enrolled in a board-approved dual enrollment program shall not be considered truant for the hours during the school day they attend classes at a Regent's university, community college, technical college, vocational educational school, or Washburn University.

Approved: USD 281 Board of Education 11/16