

Board Policy Document

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## **STUDENT PERSONNEL**

### ***Series 500***

**Policy Title:       Truancy-Unexcused Absences**

**Code Number:     501.10**

The Board of Directors of the Sioux City Community School District believes that student attendance is crucial to student learning. There are also statutory requirements with which parents must comply. Students of compulsory attendance age shall attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. All school employees shall report truanancies in accordance with Iowa Code 299.15.

Truancy is the failure to attend school without an acceptable excuse. Days absent count toward truancy when a student is absent without excuse.

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

The principal may ask a truancy officer to investigate the cause of a student's absence and, if necessary, the principal and truant officer shall develop an appropriate strategy to deal with absences, including first contacting parents/guardians. If after parental/guardian contact, a student is still truant, a truancy officer shall refer the matter over to the county attorney for students in grades 7-12. Administrative Regulation CAR) 501.1 will be used for students who have not yet completed the sixth grade.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall represent the District in mediation. The District will monitor a student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

First Adoption:       September 13, 1994  
Revision Adoption:   September 22, 1998/March 25, 2003  
Legal Reference:     Iowa Code §294.4; 299 (1993)

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Any student who has over eight (8) days of unexcused absences per semester or twelve (12) days of unexcused absences per year shall be considered a truant for purposes of this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations shall indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.