



Truancy

Compulsory Attendance Statutes (105 ILCS 5/26-1 et seq)

The Illinois compulsory attendance law requires that "Whoever has custody or control of any child between the ages of 7 and 17 years shall cause such child to attend some public school..." The compulsory attendance law provides an exception for "any child attending a private or parochial school where children are taught the branches of education taught to children of corresponding age and grade in the public schools, and where the instruction of the child in the branches of education is in the English language;"

Section 3-13 of the Illinois school Code gives the Regional Superintendent of Schools/Intermediate Service Center-Regions the authority to appoint a Truant Officer.

The Intermediate Service Centers (ISC) **assist & support** local school districts with truancy violations, which requires warning letters, truancy hearings, and in some cases, going to Juvenile Court for final disposition. Local school districts can request advisory /support assistance with truancy concerns by contacting the local ISC.

A truant is defined as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof. A chronic truant is any student who misses 9 or more days of school (5%) without a proper excuse.

The template below is a model for effective steps in working with a truant. Each of these categories should be addressed **before** a case is brought before the juvenile court.

Truancy Interventions

