

506 – Truancy Policy

I. Purpose:

- A. This policy will provide the process by which the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence (BASSE) will administer the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) truancy regulations.

II. Policy Statement:

- A. Delaware law regarding truancy requires BASSE to report students as truant after a total of six (6) unexcused absences in a year. After a total of thirty (30) unexcused absences in a year, BASSE is obligated to report parents for prosecution, and if the student is over the age of sixteen (16), the student may be reported for prosecution as well.

III. Implementation Guidelines:

A. Absences without excuse/truancy conferences:

1. If a student has been absent from school without a valid excuse for six (6) or more days, the school administration or designee of the school may take such action as the school administration considers appropriate.
2. If a student is truant, the school administration or designee may schedule a truancy conference with the student, the student's parent, and the school administration. The conference may be attended by other persons as the school administration or designee deems appropriate.
3. Following a truancy conference the school shall decide whether or not to file a charge against the parent for a violation; provided, however, that the school administration or designee shall refer the case for prosecution following the 18th day of unexcused absence by a student during the school year, and may refer the case before the 18th day of unexcused absence if the school administration determines it is appropriate to do so.
4. The fact that a student or student's parent/caregiver may attend or has attended a truancy conference does not bar the school administration or designee from filing a complaint with a court.
5. The school administration or designee's failure to hold a truancy conference does not bar the filing of a complaint with a court and adjudication by a court.

- B. BASSE reserves the right to file truancy charges and/or retain a student who misses more than eighteen (18) days.

- C. Any student who accumulates more than ten (10) but less than eighteen (18) absences, not including medical/administrative, may be required to make up those days in excess of ten (10) during a fee-based summer program.

1. Failure to make up those days will result in the student being retained.
2. The student and/or parent/caregiver will be expected to provide transportation to the summer program.

D. Students are entitled to make up any work that is missed as a result of medical, administrative, or excused absences; however, make-up work must be completed within the number of days the student was absent.

IV. Responsibility:

A. It is the responsibility of the student and their parents/caregivers to ensure all absences are communicated with the school and unexcused absences are under six (6) per school year.

B. BASSE is responsible for reporting students deemed truant to the proper authorities.

Related Policies:

A. 501 – BASSE Attendance Policy

Related Procedures and Documents:

A. Title 14 Chapter 27 Subchapter II Truancy:

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c027/sc02/index.shtml>

Approval: 01/23/2023

Revision Dates: