



Guidance Corner: Attendance and Truancy

Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2010

What is an AIP?

An AIP, Attendance Intervention Plan, is a tool used by schools to assist parents, students and teachers in improving students' attendance. An AIP lists previous attendance violations and possible interventions to prevent those violations from occurring again. AIPs hold everyone involved in the students' attendance accountable. This includes the parents, the student (age 12 and older), the teacher, guidance counselor, social worker, school attendance personnel, and anyone else that attends the AIP meetings.

The process of an AIP:

-The student accumulates 3 consecutive unexcused absences or 5 cumulative unexcused absences.

-The school notifies the parents for the need of an AIP

-A meeting is set and the parents, teacher and staff work together to find a cause and solution for the student's absences.

-The student follows AIP recommendations and continues to attend school regularly and on time.

-If the student and parents do not follow the recommendations outlined by the AIP, the school refers the family to family court.

Attendance greatly affects your child's education. Regular school attendance prevents your child from falling behind in school work and not doing well on exams. Attendance is not only a requirement but it's your child's commitment to their education. Teaching your child to have a strong commitment to their education starts with them attending school every day and on time. Regular school attendance

allows your child to feel part of our learning community. Your child's regular attendance allows Carolina School for Inquiry to provide our students with a sense of stability and consistency.



South Carolina law requires regular school attendance for every child who is at least five years old on or before the first day of September of a particular school year, until the child turns 17 years old. Parents are primarily responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly, and they face statutory penalties if they neglect that responsibility.

The *Skinny* on Attendance

What is Truancy?

Truancy is an unexcused absence from school. The amended South Carolina Reg. 43-274 provides three forms of truancy.

Truant:

A child, at least 6 but not yet 17 years old, who has accumulated three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences.

Habitual Truant:

A child, at least 12 but not yet 17 years old who (1) fails to comply with the intervention plan developed by the school, the child, and the parents or guardians, and (2) accumulates two or more additional unlawful absences.

Chronic Truant:

A child, at least 12 but not yet 17 years old, who (1) has been through the school intervention process; (2) has reached the level of a habitual truant and has been referred to family court and placed under an order to attend school; and (3) continues to accumulate unlawful absences.

Helpful Websites/Handouts:

- School Attendance: Questions asked by Parents

- Truancy Flow Chart

-http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/YourChildsWelfareAtSchool/DG_4016117

-<http://childlaw.sc.edu/juvenilejustice.asp?parentCatID=21&catID=88>

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