

## **CHRONIC ABSENCE AND TRUANCY**

**Policy No. 7110**

The Wyandanch Board of Education believes that excessive student absenteeism and tardiness, whether caused by excused or unexcused absences, may be an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and may put students at risk of dropping out of school. The Board desires to ensure that all students attend school in accordance with the State's compulsory Education Law and take full advantage of educational opportunities provided by the District.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish a system to accurately track and monitor student attendance on a monthly basis, including methods to identify students classified as chronic absentees and truants. Chronic absentees shall be defined as a student missing 5% or more (excused or unexcused) of the days the student has been enrolled and school is in session.

To encourage school attendance, the Superintendent or designee shall develop strategies that focus on prevention and early intervention of attendance problems. Preventive strategies may include efforts to provide a safe and positive school environment, relevant and engaging learning experiences, and school activities that help develop students' feelings of connectedness with the schools. The Superintendent or designee also may provide incentives and rewards to recognize students who achieve excellent attendance or demonstrate significant improvement in attendance.

The Superintendent or designee shall work with students and parents/guardians to identify factors contributing to chronic absence and truancy. Based on this needs assessment, he/she shall collaborate with community agencies, including, but not limited to, child welfare services, law enforcement, courts and/or public health care agencies, to ensure that alternative educational programs and nutrition, health care, and other support services are available for students and families and to intervene as necessary when students have serious attendance problems.

As required by law, habitually truant students shall be referred to a school attendance officer or a family court PINS Petition proceeding.

Throughout the school year, the Superintendent or designee shall regularly analyze data on student absence to identify patterns of absence district-wide and by school, grade level, and student population. Such data shall be used to identify common barriers to attendance, prioritize resources for intervention, and monitor progress over time. The Superintendent or designee shall periodically report this information to the Board for purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of strategies implemented to reduce chronic absence and truancy and making changes as needed. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee also shall provide this information to key school staff and community agency partners to engage them in program evaluation and improvement.

The Superintendent shall formulate regulations consistent with this policy in order to guide staff of the plan for addressing chronic absences and truancy.