

## NORTHWESTERN CUSD #2 - Absenteeism and Truancy Policy

### **Attendance**

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

- Students in grades K and 1 must be in class for 120 minutes to be counted present for one half day, and for 240 minutes to be counted present for a full day.
- Students in grades 2 – 6 must be in class for 150 minutes to be counted present for one half day, and for 300 minutes to be counted present for a full day.

#### **1. Definition of a Valid Cause for being absent**

- a. Illness, including the mental or behavioral health of the student;
- b. Observance of a religious holiday;
- c. Death in the immediate family or family emergency;
- d. Other situations beyond the control of the student, as determined by the Board of Education; or
- e. Such other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent for the mental, emotional, or physical health of the student.

#### **2. The Diagnostic Procedures used to identify the causes of unexcused absences.**

The following will be used for identifying the causes of unexcused absences: interviews with the student, his or her parent or guardian, and any school officials who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problem.

#### **3. Interventions and supportive services for truant or chronically truant students.**

Interventions and support services shall include but not be limited to: parent conferences, student counseling, family counseling, and information about existing community resources that are available to truant and chronically truant students and relevant to their needs.

#### **4. Chronic Absenteeism Regular Review**

The school will collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. The review shall include an analysis of chronic absence data from each attendance center or campus of the school district.