



PROCESS FOR UPHOLDING THE ATTENDANCE POLICY

First Day of School Process:

When students are not in attendance on the first five (5) days of school, DMCS will attempt to reach the parent/guardian on a daily basis for each of the first five days to determine whether the student has an excused absence, consistent with the process outlined in this policy. If the student has a basis for an excused absence, parents must notify the school of the absence and provide documentation consistent with this policy. However, consistent with process below, students who are not in attendance due to an unexcused absence by the fifth day of school will be disenrolled from the school roster, as it will be assumed that the student has chosen another school option.

1. Students who are not in attendance on the first day of school will be contacted by phone to ensure their intent to enroll.
2. Students who have indicated their intent to enroll, but have not attended by the third day will receive a letter indicating the student will be disenrolled after the fifth day of school if the student has not attended school without valid excuse.
3. Students who have indicated their intent to enroll, but have not attended by the fifth day will receive a phone call reiterating the content of the letter.
4. Students who have not attended by the sixth day, and do not have an excused absence as defined above for not being in attendance will be disenrolled from the roster.
5. DMCS will use the contact information provided by the parent/guardian in the registration packet.
6. The District of Residence will be notified of the student's failure to attend DMCS and the disenrollment.

Truancy Process:

1. Each of the first two (2) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes will result in a call home to the parent/guardian by the Executive Director or designee. The student's classroom teacher may also call home.
2. Each of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes will result in a call home to the parent/guardian by Executive Director or designee. In addition, the student's classroom teacher may also call home and/or the School may send the parent an e-mail notification. In addition, upon reaching three (3) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes in a school year, the parent/guardian will receive "Truancy Letter #1" from DMCS. This letter must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the School. This letter shall also be accompanied by a copy of the Attendance Policy and Process. This letter, and all subsequent letter(s) sent home, shall be sent by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, or some other form of mail that can be tracked.



3. Upon reaching seven (7) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the parent/guardian will receive “Truancy Letter #2 – Conference Request,” and a parent/guardian conference will be scheduled to review the student’s records and develop an intervention plan/contract. In addition, DMCS will consult with a school counselor regarding the appropriateness of a home visitation and/or case management.
4. Upon reaching ten (10) unexcused absences or unexcused tardies over 30 minutes, the student will be referred to a Student Success Team (SST) and the School Attendance Review Team (SART). In addition, the parent/guardian will receive a “Habitual Truancy Re-classification Letter #3,” and will be asked/invited to attend an evening assembly for parents/guardians of chronically absent students.
5. The SART panel will be composed of Executive Director, Dean of Students, Academic Services Administrator, and Teacher. The SART panel will discuss the absence problem with the Parent/Guardian to work on solutions, develop strategies, discuss appropriate support services for the student and his/her family, and establish a plan to resolve the attendance issue.
 - a. The SART panel shall direct the parent/guardian that no further unexcused absences or tardies can be tolerated.
 - b. The parent shall be required to sign a contract formalizing the agreement by the parents to improve the child’s attendance or face additional administrative action. The contract will identify the corrective actions required in the future, and indicate that the SART panel shall have the authority to order one or more of the following consequences for non-compliance with the terms of the contract:
 - i. Parent/guardian to attend school with the child for one day
 - ii. Student retention
 - iii. After school detention program
 - iv. Required school counseling
 - v. Loss of field trip privileges
 - vi. Loss of school store privileges
 - vii. Loss of school event privileges
 - viii. Required remediation plan as set by the SART
 - ix. Notification to the District Attorney
 - c. The SART panel may discuss other school placement options.
 - d. Notice of action recommended by the SART will be provided in writing to the parent/guardian.
6. If the conditions of the SART contract are not met, the student may incur additional administrative action up to and including disenrollment from the school and notification of the disenrollment sent to the student’s district of residence.
7. For all communications set forth in this process, DMCS will use the contact information provided by the parent/guardian in the registration packet. It is the parent’s or guardian’s responsibility to update DMCS with any new contact information.
8. If student is absent ten (10) or more consecutive school days without valid excuse and parent/guardian cannot be reached at the number or address provided in the registration packet and does not otherwise respond to DMCS’s communication attempts, as set forth above, the student will be in violation of the SART contract, and the SART panel will



recommend that the student be deemed to have voluntarily disenrolled and notification of the disenrollment be sent to the student's district of residence.

Removal from DMCS

If, after the above procedures have been followed, the student continues to have unexcused absences or tardies, the parent/guardian may receive notice that the student is in violation of the SART contract. The student will then be required to appear before the SART panel again to discuss the unexcused absences or tardies. After such meeting, or after reasonable attempts by the SART panel to schedule the meeting if the parent/guardian is nonresponsive, the SART panel may recommend that the student be deemed to have voluntarily disenrolled from DMCS. The parent will receive written notice of the SART panel's recommendation.

The SART panel shall then forward its recommendation to the Governing Board for review of the matter and final decision. The parent/guardian will receive written notice of the date and time of the Governing Board review. Such notice shall be sent at least five (5) days prior to the Board review. The Board's decision shall be final as to that recommendation.

If there is a Board decision to disenroll, notice will be sent to the student's district of residence within thirty (30) days.

A Board decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent the SART panel from making a similar recommendation in the future.

Referral to Appropriate Agencies or County District Attorney:

It is DMCS's intent to identify and remove all barriers to the student's success, and the School will explore every possible option to address student attendance issues with the family. For any unexcused absence, DMCS may refer the family to appropriate school-based and/or social service agencies.

If a child's attendance does not improve after a SART contract has been developed according to the procedures above, or if the parents fail to attend a required SART meeting, DMCS shall notify the District's Attorney's office, which then may refer the matter for prosecution through the court system. Students 12 years of age and older may be referred to the juvenile court for adjudication.

These policies will be enforced fairly, uniformly, and consistently without regard to the characteristics listed in Education Code Section 220 (actual or perceived disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics).



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Reports

The Executive Director, or designee, shall gather and report to the Board the number of absences both excused and unexcused as well as students who are truant, and the steps taken to remedy the problem.