

The Ranches Academy Truancy Policy

The Ranches Academy encourages good attendance and will make every effort to resolve attendance problems. Those efforts will include:

- Annual notification of the School's attendance policies will be provided to the parents of all students at the time of registration.
- When a student's attendance is negatively affecting the student's learning, the classroom teacher will notify the student and/or the student's parent(s) of the concern. The teacher will set up a conference with the student and/or the student's parent(s) to identify and resolve any problems that prevent the student from attending school. The student's progress will be monitored.
- If meeting with the student and parent(s) does not adequately address the problems and the student's learning continues to suffer, then the teacher or director will work with the parent(s) in finding a solution to the problems that are preventing the student from attending to his/her learning. Efforts to resolve the problems may include, but are not limited to the following: making adjustments to the curriculum or the schedule, counseling of the student by school authorities, considering alternatives proposed by the parent, or providing the parent with a list of community resources to help the family.
- The director may consult with a parent/guardian to determine if mitigating circumstances such as medical or psychological problems indicate the use of intervention methods for resolving the attendance problems.
- In the event that the preceding interventions fail, a certified letter will be sent to the parent(s) requesting a formal meeting with the administrator to resolve the attendance problems. A copy of the letter and will be kept by the School.
- The director will notify the student and a parent/guardian of the actions the School may take should the student be truant in the future.

Habitual Truancy Citation

Consistent with Section 53A-11-101.7, a habitual truancy citation may be issued to a student who is a habitual truant. Habitual truancy citations will only be issued after the School has made earnest and persistent efforts to resolve student attendance problems, which efforts may include those set forth above.

Habitual truancy citations will be served on the parent/guardian by personal service or certified mail. The parent/guardian will have the right to appeal a truancy citation in writing to the principal within ten (10) days of being issued. The School will refer a student to whom a habitual truancy citation has been issued to juvenile court. A court referral will include a recommended disposition containing the following:

- [a] documentation of attendance and academic achievement;
- [b] documentation of school efforts to improve attendance;
- [c] copies of truancy citations, including all mailing certificates; and [d] student background as requested by the prosecuting agency.

Notice of Compulsory Education Violation

The Ranches Academy may issue a "notice of compulsory education violation" to a parent/guardian of a student who is under the age of fourteen (14) if the student is truant (absent without a valid excuse) at least five (5) times during the school year.

This notice shall:

1. Direct the parent/guardian to meet with School Director to discuss the student's attendance problem and cooperate with the principal and/or Board to secure regular attendance by the student;
2. State that it is a class B misdemeanor for the student's parent or guardian to intentionally or recklessly fail to meet with the designated school authorities to discuss the student's attendance problems, or fail to prevent the student from being truant an additional five (5) more times during the remainder of the school year; and
3. Be served on the parent/guardian by personal service or certified mail.