

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

} Revised

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

School Board Policy 5200 Truancy states, "If a child does not comply with efforts to enforce school attendance, the Superintendent may file a truancy petition. Any student who has a total of fifteen (15) days of unexcused absence from school within a ninety (90) calendar day period will be considered habitually absent. The Superintendent shall inform the student and parents of the record of excessive absences as well as the District's intent to notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles."

Prior to submitting a truancy referral, escalating services must be administered. Specifically, the required escalating services are to be documented through the following: (a) Truancy Child Study Team Committee Meeting and Report; (b) Daily Attendance Screen; and (c) Consent Form for Mutual Exchange of Information.

There are optional escalating services that can be documented through the following: (a) Written Notice to Parents; (b) Truancy Home Visit; (c) Attendance Agreement; (d) Schools Daily Progress Report; and/or (e) Other Pertinent Documentation.

The purpose of these services are to: (a) discuss the reason(s) for the student's absences; (b) identify and recommend potential remedies/interventions; and (c) advise parents that the student's absences will result in a complaint of truancy to be filed with the Department of Juvenile Justice through a referral to a social service agency as well as the District's intent to notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles FOR Driver License revocation.

Truancy affects students of all ages, and costs students more than their education; it costs them their future. As such, the main objective is to identify and recommend potential remedies that will resolve any attendance issues faced by our students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Determine the effectiveness of the truancy intervention program by providing information including but not limited to the following: (a) demographic information of the students in the program; (b) the effect on student dropout rates and suspensions; (c) breakdown of truancy complaints filed per District; and (d) the level of parental involvement in the intervention program; and
2. Provide specific recommendations and methods that administrators within individual Districts and/or schools that are experiencing high truancy rates can implement to reduce these incidents