

Charter School Performance Compact: Truancy

Charter schools must comply with RS 17:221. Louisiana’s attendance regulations outline the minimum and maximum age required by each state in which a student must be enrolled and attend school.

Attendance Requirements

Compulsory Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children between the ages of five and eighteen must be enrolled in a public or private school. Louisiana’s compulsory attendance laws also apply to any child below the age of seven who enrolls in school (i.e. pre-kindergarten students).
Reporting Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools must also develop and implement a system whereby parents and/or guardians are provided verbal notification of truancy. Further, if verbal notification cannot be provided, then the school shall provide written notification of truancy.

The interventions outlined below are aligned with state law and policy and represent best practices based on the number of unexcused absences:

Days	Intervention
1 to 4 Unexcused Absences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School documents outreach efforts to reach out to parents/guardians. When the number of unexcused absences increases, refer to the case
5 or more Unexcused Absences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School sends written notification to parents and/or legal guardians School refers to local parish policies regarding any additional requirements
15 Unexcused Absences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School requests that the student be discharged for non-attendance

Until a student transfers to another school or is declared truant by a local court, the student will continue to be enrolled in the school.

Schools must also refer to local parish policies regarding any additional requirements to report cases for truancy to the Families in Need of Service (FINS) Office or the local District Attorney’s Office.

Additional Information

Attendance Resource	Website
RS 17:221 School Attendance	https://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?p=y&d=80276
Reference Guide for Child Welfare and Attendance	https://www.louisianabelieves.com/courses/louisiana-child-welfare-and-attendance

This informational document is a general guide to inform schools of basic requirements. It is NOT a substitute for federal, state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies. Please visit the websites above for more information or contact the Office of School Choice with questions.