

TRUANCY TASK FORCE INITIATIVE

The East Stroudsburg Area School District has partnered with surrounding school districts, Monroe County Judges, and Monroe & Pike County Children & Youth on a Truancy Task Force Initiative to combat truancy in our community.

In accordance with State law, East Stroudsburg Area School District Board Policy #204-Attendance supports this initiative.

At this time, Monroe County Judges are focusing primarily on combating truancy for students in grades 5-10; however, the East Stroudsburg Area School District has implemented procedures district-wide for kindergarten through grade twelve. (At this time, the Pike County Judge is currently not participating, only Pike Children & Youth.)

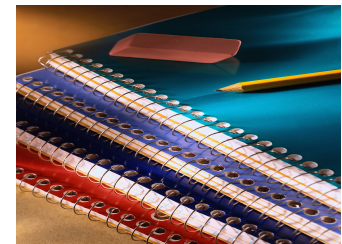
East Stroudsburg Area School District
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Pennsylvania school districts shall not discriminate in their educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodation, grievance procedure, and the designated responsible official for compliance with Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Sharon Laverdure, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator, at the Administration Office of the East Stroudsburg Area School District.



East Stroudsburg Area School District

Compulsory Attendance Requirements



TRUANCY PROCEDURES

Step 1: The teacher or attendance secretary will identify students who do not hand in absence notes within 3 days of an absence. This will generate their first unlawful absence. Parents will be notified when students miss school. This will happen for the first 2 unlawful absences.

Step 2: The first letter will be sent when students have accumulated 3 unlawful absences. The letter from the judges will be included with this mailing. This will be sent certified and regular mail. Should the certified letter be returned unclaimed, district truancy/police will hand deliver the letter to the home. A school/family conference will be scheduled to discuss the cause of the child's truancy and develop a mutually agreed upon Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) to resolve truant behavior. A notice to Children & Youth will be sent. A copy of all letters will be sent to the Monroe County Judges. (At this time, the Pike County Judge is currently not participating, only Pike County Children & Youth.)

Step 3: Upon the fourth unlawful absence, a citation may be issued and a referral sent to Children & Youth. A school/family conference will be scheduled with a Monroe County Judge (grades 5-10 only).

Step 4: A citation may be issued for every subsequent unlawful absence without further notice.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The Board requires that school-aged students enrolled in schools of the school district attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by this school district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress.

The Board recognizes that if the parent(s)/guardian(s) will not insist that their child take advantage of the free educational opportunities offered, it becomes the duty of the school district and the State to require that attendance be enforced within the limits of the law.



ABSENCES SHALL BE TREATED AS UNLAWFUL UNTIL THE SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES A WRITTEN EXCUSE EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE, WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS OF THE ABSENCE. AFTER 10 PARENTAL EXCUSES, A DOCTOR'S NOTE MAY BE REQUIRED.

THE BOARD CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING URGENT REASONS TO CONSTITUTE REASONABLE CAUSE FOR TEMPORARY EXCUSAL FROM SCHOOL:

- Illness
- Quarantine
- Recovery from accident
- Required court attendance
- Death in the family
- Impassable roads
- Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child
- Excused pursuant to a farm or domestic service emergency permit
- Exceptionally urgent reason such as affect the child, but which ordinarily would not include work at home
- To receive professional health care or therapy services rendered by Commonwealth licensed practitioners that are otherwise impractical or impossible to receive outside of school hours upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of such need
- Pre-approved educational trips or tours in accordance with Policy 204.2 Any vacation request not approved will result in "unlawful" absences.
- Pre-approved college visits
- Official religious holidays observed by the student's religious group