

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 05-0126-PO2
COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

PO2 as follows:

POLICY TEXT:

I. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

II. ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT

A. SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVES

[REDACTED] schools whose overall attendance rate is below 95% shall develop an "Attendance

Improvement Plan" ("Plan") to be implemented during the next school year. The Plan shall be included in, and made a part of, the school's School Improvement Plan for Advancing Academic Achievement for the next school year. The goals of the Plan shall be to:

- (i) reduce the number of student absences;
- (ii) increase student academic achievement;
- (iii) reduce the number of chronic truants/potential dropouts;
- (iv) increase parental and community involvement in these objectives; and

5. **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AUDITS:** Schools shall be subject to annual audits to determine whether they are in compliance with their Attendance Improvement Plans and are accurately reporting student attendance.

strategies, and procedures set forth in the Uniform Attendance Guidelines to maintain and improve their average daily attendance.

III. INTERVENTION

In order to identify and address the cause(s) of unexcused absenteeism, a principal shall, as necessary: interview the student; meet with his or her parent(s) or guardian(s); meet with other Board officials; or

and cooperation of other governmental agencies, including: the Chicago Housing Authority (by including provisions in its lease agreements requiring regular school attendance by school age students); the Illinois

Department of Public Aid (by redirecting to social service agencies, or withholding a portion of, the assistance it provides to parents of truant students, as allowed by statute); the Office of the State's Attorney of Cook County and the Circuit Court of Cook County, Juvenile Division (by requesting the expedited processing of truants on probation and the prosecution of chronic truants and their parents or

legal guardians, as appropriate, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/34-4.5); and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (by ensuring that its wards attend school regularly). The Board shall explore, and implement to the greatest extent feasible, opportunities for such interagency collaboration.

VI. CHRONIC TRUANCY ADJUDICATION

Pursuant to Section 34-4.5 of the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/34-4.5, there is hereby established within the Board of Education a Department of Chronic Truant Adjudication, which shall be responsible for administratively adjudicating cases of chronic truancy and imposing appropriate sanctions. Also pursuant to Section 34-4.5, the Board shall appoint and employ hearing officers to perform the adjudicatory functions of the Department of Chronic Truant Adjudication. Principals and other appropriate personnel may refer students suspected of being chronic truants, as defined in this policy, to the Department of

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IX. SCHOOL UNIFORM OR DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Schools may impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to the Uniform Discipline Code for uniform or dress code violations. Schools cannot bar students from daily attendance or send them home for violations of a uniform or dress code. Schools may impose disciplinary sanctions pursuant to the Uniform

Discipline Code for uniform or dress code violations. Out of school suspensions for uniform or