

Considerations for Protocol Committees

Introduction:

There are several elements local communities should consider in creating effective student attendance strategies. Each community is unique and faces different challenges in combating truancy. Provided below are criteria to consider when developing a student attendance protocol.

- Ensure parents, students, local administration are aware of and understand the Georgia compulsory attendance law and consequences for failing to comply;
- Develop clear definitions for unexcused absences, tardy, and early checkouts;
- Develop separate interventions and consequences for elementary, middle, and high school truancy;
- Implement a progressive discipline strategy including monitoring, counseling, mentoring, and tutoring for truant students and other family support services before referring truant cases to the court system;
- Create a balance between incentives for progress (carrot) and punishments for failure to comply (stick);
- Procure a written commitment from non-school leaders and organizations to help identify the causes of and solutions for truancy;
- Develop a parental involvement process to help identify and rectify the underlying cause(s) of truancy;
- Develop attendance committees for each school within a school system;
- Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 40-5-22, develop policies and procedures governing the denial or suspension of an instruction permit or driver's license for students younger than 18 years of age who have violated certain attendance and discipline requirements and have not received a high school diploma, certificate of high school completion, or have not enrolled in a postsecondary school.
- Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 39-2-11, subsection (e)(1), develop policies and procedures regarding the school enrollment and attendance status of students younger than 18 years of age who are employed and have not received a high school diploma, certificate of high school completion, or have not enrolled in a postsecondary school.