

Chronic Absenteeism

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, a new definition of “*absent*” was implemented by all states under the United States Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR), to identify students missing valuable instructional time.

- Chronic Absenteeism counts all absences: for any reason-excused, unexcused, and suspensions. A student can be flagged as being Chronically Absent and not miss a full day-he/she could be on school grounds. CA is based on the minutes of the school day and the dismissal codes entered for time-in/time-out.
- Truancy counts only unexcused full-day absences- the student is not physically on school grounds for the entire day. A truant is defined as a student subject to compulsory school attendance and is absent without cause. (unexcused/unlawful)

This is the legal/law part of school attendance. Mandated by SC Compulsory Law, SCDE, DSS, Family Court, the legal agencies, and our responsibility under Law to enforce.

How is Chronically Absent Defined?

- Any student in grade K-12 who misses 50 percent or more of the instructional day for any reason for 10 percent (or more) of the enrollment period is flagged in PowerSchool as being Chronically Absent.

How is a Student Flagged /Identified as being Chronically Absent?

- By schools entering time in - time out and using the correct dismissal codes provided in *Attendance Codes and Descriptions* that PowerSchool provides our schools.
- This is ALL that schools need to enter. PowerSchool calculates students who are Chronically Absent.
- This makes it unnecessary **to enter a full day unless** the student is not physically on school grounds for the entire day. The student would be marked absent in all classes and for a full day absence.

Truancy

How is Truancy Defined?

Truancy is defined by a student between the ages of 6– 17 who has accumulated unexcused absences on three consecutive days or has accumulated a total of five or more unexcused absences during the academic year.

- In contrast to Chronic Absenteeism, only full-day unexcused absences contribute to truancy.
- Legally mandated to all schools under all Compulsory Attendance Law, and Student Attendance Interventions Plans, Referrals to Family Court, and DSS.
- Excused absences and suspensions do not affect truancy.