



Student Support Initiatives & Recovery

Policy 5.5: Attendance, Final Reading Regular School Board Meeting

July 21, 2020

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Progression of Rule Development for Policy 5.5: Attendance

May 12, 2020 – First Rule Development Workshop

- *Public notice advertised May 2, 2020, replacing another item on the agenda.*
- *This item was previously scheduled for Rule Development for March 31, 2020. That meeting was reimagined to meet the needs of the school district for COVID-19.*

June 16, 2020 – Second Rule Development Workshop, First Reading

- *Public notice advertised June 2, 2020*

July 21, 2020 – Regular School Board Meeting, Rule Adoption

- *Public notice advertised June 21, 2020*



Notable Changes to Policy 5.5

Definitions added, including: *Attendance, Chronic Absenteeism, and Regular attender.*

Pattern of Nonattendance: *Expansion and clarification of criteria for school staff to consider in determination of pattern of nonattendance.*

Reporting an Absence: *Clearly identifies information needed by school staff to excuse an absence. Indicates three methods of reporting for parents that will be supported by the school.*

Excused Absences, Illness of Student: *Provides guidance to parents indicating considerations for a student's physical and mental well-being as an excusable reason for absence.*

Unexcused Absence, examples *of reasons for absences that are not excused.*

New section for Suspensions: *Provides clarity about types of suspensions and how they are counted for attendance.*



Training and Implementation for Policy 5.5

MANDATORY TRAINING FOR STAFF

The Student Services Department will provide mandatory training for teachers, administrators, and attendance clerks.

Mandatory training will be delivered on the Canvas learning management system, available to staff upon return to work August 12, 2020 through the Learning Across Broward (LAB), supported by the Professional Development Standards & Support Department.

Engagement of Students and Families

Training will include a module that will provide strategies and interventions to assist school-based staff with engaging students and families to improve attendance. Communication strategies include:

- Infographic for Back-to-School events
- Training video for students
- Training video for parents
- Back-to-School publications through the Office of Communications



Attendance during the COVID-19 Era

On March 18, 2020, Broward County Public Schools responded to the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Florida Department of Health by closing schools to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

From March 30, 2020 through June 2, 2020, District offices monitored student connectivity through a single-sign-on portal and verified logins in Canvas as a proxy for student attendance. Schools remained closed from March 13, prior to spring break, through the end of the 4th marking period on June 2, 2020.

Start of 2020/21 School Year:

- BCPS has organized a work group of teachers, administrators, and District leaders to determine effective methods for teachers and schools to monitor attendance during times when distance learning is required. Working ahead of guidance from the State of Florida, this work group is operating under the assumption that student attendance will be required daily and for each class at the secondary level.
- At the time of publication of this presentation, the work group is developing surveys for teachers and administrators to help determine the viability of potential solutions to meet the needs of our youngest learners in K-3, students with exceptionalities, and students in grades 4-12.
- Parents and students will be included in the work group. The Office of Communications will be instrumental in the messaging to our stakeholders as we move through this uncertain time.
- Should there be a need to recommend an **Emergency Rule** associated with *Policy 5.5: Attendance* or *Policy 6744: Distance Learning*, staff will provide the School Board with recommendations.



School Board Feedback and Questions



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