Tardiness / Truancy Enforcement Policy

A student who is late to class ten (10) minutes or less may be assigned to detention hall for being tardy. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in a more severe disciplinary action, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. NOTE: The definition of truancy consists of students failing to attend school during school hours; therefore, students habitually late in arriving to school at the start of school each day may have truancy consequences imposed.

Regular and consistent attendance is essential to achieving academic success. Consequently, a primary goal of the FBISD Truancy Unit is to encourage regular and consistent attendance of all students. Therefore, when a student accumulates a prohibited amount of unexcused absences, the compulsory attendance laws as stated above, must be enforced. The FBISD will enforce the compulsory attendance laws in the following manner:

- All students will be issued a warning notice when attendance records reflect that the student has absences without an excuse on three (3) or more days or parts of days within a four-week period;

- Automated phone calls will be placed to parents or guardians notifying them when students are absent as well as when a truancy warning notice has been issued. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure that he/she provide current and up to date contact information to the school;

- After a student has been issued a warning notice and his/her attendance record reflects that he/she has three (3) additional absences without excuse within a four-week period, the student will be issued a second (2nd) warning notice and referred to the FBISD Truancy Diversion Program (TDP) in lieu of being issued a citation.

  The TDP is a privilege and not a right. The TDP is an information-based program designed as 1) an alternative to a court referral and 2) to educate parents or guardians and students, who are experiencing truancy problems, as to the consequences associated with unexcused absences. In addition, the program identifies available and appropriate resources for families who may be experiencing issues that may be contributing to a student's truancy. The TDP will be offered to students and parents with truancy issues **once** during each school year.

  The student's **and** parent's or guardian's attendance in the TDP is required on the scheduled program date(s) at the scheduled time(s) in order to avoid the district filing of a citation for unexcused absences of three (3) or more days or parts of days without an excuse within a four-week period. Attendance officers shall consider extenuating circumstances referenced above if a student and / or parent or guardian is unable to attend the TDP scheduled referral date / time;

- If a student fails to attend school on ten (10) or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year prior to attending the TDP and those absences have been verified by the campus as unexcused, the student and / or parent or guardian will be issued a citation and referred to the appropriate court regardless of whether the TDP has been completed. In such a case, the student and parent or guardian must appear on the scheduled court date at the scheduled time and location regardless of whether they are in the process of completing or have already completed the TDP. A student, parent or guardian who fail or refuse to attend the TDP or who does not complete the TDP will be issued a citation. If a student's unexcused absences are sporadic, it is possible that a warning notice or TDP referral may not be issued; however, a citation for ten (10) or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year within six (6) months can be issued without a warning notice or TDP referral.

- Once a student and parent or guardian have been afforded the opportunity to attend the TDP, the student, parent or guardian will receive a truancy citation for future violations of the compulsory attendance laws.

Parents are strongly encouraged to register for the FBISD Parent Portal which will allow for the monitoring of a student's attendance to insure accuracy and to take appropriate action when necessary. Since citations are issued based on the attendance data coded in a student's electronic file, both parents or guardians and students should address any and all questions concerning marked unexcused absences with the appropriate campus administrator or campus principal without delay.