

Illinois Definitions for Truant, Chronic Truant, Potential Dropout and Truant Minor

Truant

Child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof. (105 ILCS 5/26-2a)

Chronic truant or habitual truant

Child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 5% (9 days) or more of the previous 180 regular school attendance days. (105 ILCS 5/26-2a)

Potential dropout with attendance problems

Child subject to compulsory attendance and whose school absences or pattern of school attendance impedes the child's learning or contributes to the child's failure to meet the Illinois Learning Standards and/or district learning standards. (23 Ill. Adm. Code 205.20(b) (4))

Truant Minor

Chronic truant to whom resources and supportive services have been provided and have failed to result in the remediation of the chronic truancy, or have been offered and refused by the parent(s), guardian(s), and/or student.

SB100 Highlights

School Discipline

- Annual parent-teacher advisory committee to discuss bullying prevention
- Assists with development of “pupil discipline, including searches”
- Districts to create memorandum of understanding with law enforcement
- No zero tolerance
- Districts to limit use of expulsions and suspensions to greatest extent practicable
- School officials to consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline
- School officials shall not advise students to drop out of school due to behavioral or academic difficulties
- Students shall not be issued monetary fee for disciplinary consequence
- Districts to in-service staff and board members on consequences of school exclusion, justice system involvement, classroom management, culturally responsive discipline and developmentally appropriate discipline that promotes positive and healthy school climates.

Short Term Suspensions

- Detail specific act of gross disobedience or misconduct
- Rationale as to duration of suspension
- Only use if student’s presence at school would pose a threat to school safety or disruption to learning opportunities – as determined by school officials on a case-by-case basis
- School officials must make reasonable effort to resolve threat or disruption and minimize length of suspension.

Long Term Suspensions, Expulsions & Removals to Alternative Schools

- Specific duration of removal and reasons why removal is in best interest of school
- Use only when other appropriate interventions are exhausted and student's presence will pose threat to safety of others or substantially disrupt, impede or interfere with operation of school
- School officials shall determine availability and use of interventions and meaning of threat or disruption
- School officials shall make reasonable efforts to resolve threat or disruption and minimize length of exclusion
- Must document in writing whether interventions were attempted or whether there were none appropriate or available
- Students suspended longer than 4 school days must be provided appropriate and available support services – as determined by school officials
- Support services or fact that services were not appropriate or available shall be documented in writing
- Students suspended from school and/or bus and who do not have alternative transportation shall have, "reasonable opportunity to make up work for equivalent academic credit"

Districts must develop reengagement policy for students suspended/expelled or returning from alternative school