

Resolution #3-R-25 Truancy Ordinance

Date: March 19, 2025

Submitted By: Alderperson Siebers – District 1

Referred To: Safety & Licensing Committee

Summary: *Reinstating Previous Truancy Ordinance – City of Appleton*

Whereas, under Wisconsin Statute 118.163, a city may enact an ordinance prohibiting a person under 18 years of age from being a habitual truant,

Whereas, the percentage of Appleton Area School District high school students who annually qualify as “habitually truant” defined by the State of Wisconsin as missing all or part of 5 or more school days in a semester without an excuse, exceeds 40%,

Whereas, the percentage of Appleton Area School District high school students who qualify as “chronically absent” as defined by the State of Wisconsin as having missed 10% or more of total school days, is approximately 25% (over 1,000 students),

Whereas, 88% of Appleton Area School District high school students who are “habitually truant” and “chronically absent” are not on pace to graduate in four years,

Whereas, the Appleton Area School District has over the past five years continually increased the support provided to students who struggle with habitual truancy and chronic absenteeism,

Whereas, the Appleton Area School District has been unable to successfully support students who are struggling with consistent attendance without punitive measures,

Whereas, a committee including Appleton Area School District staff, parents, and community members prioritized the creation of a truancy ordinance as the most critical action to support students who are struggling with consistent school attendance,

Whereas, the Appleton Area School District has requested assistance from the City of Appleton to support students who are habitually truant, chronically absent, and not on-pace to graduate in four years, and,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the City of Appleton enact an ordinance prohibiting a person under 18 years of age from being a habitual truant, and that this ordinance be for a trial period of four school semesters, starting in the fall of 2025, after which time, a review of the success of the ordinance will be made by the City of Appleton, Outagamie County, and AASD with suggested, needed and agreed on changes being made.