

10/1/25 Resolution

Develop and enforce a policy of internal supports and tools which will be uniformly applied to all students with truancy and chronic absenteeism issues:

The Appleton Area School District uses a tiered approach to address attendance concerns at all grade levels. This information was previously shared with both this committee and the full Common Council last year. Last fall, our Board of Education attendance policy was revised to clarify the process the district follows when considering a truancy citation. Earlier this month, we also completed a comprehensive revision of the attendance policy in its entirety.

Ensure said policy will include enforcement of this truancy ordinance to be used as a final measure should other supports be unsuccessful with a student:

The Board of Education policy clearly outlines the conditions that must be met before a truancy citation may be considered. These include:

- The student has met the legal definition of truancy
- The student is chronically absent from school
- Multiple family contacts have been attempted and documented
- Intervention efforts have not improved attendance, or the student is unwilling to participate in interventions
- The student is not on pace to graduate due to absences, and
- The student is failing one or more courses

In addition, the district has established a procedural checklist that must be completed and submitted to the School Resource Officer when a truancy citation is being considered. This checklist documents student and family contacts, interventions offered and attempted, academic information, and attendance data. It should be noted that the School Resource Officer makes the final decision on whether or not to issue a citation.

Provide evidence of the supports that the district has offered to students with attendance issues before any court dispositions for truancy are levied upon a student:

These include but are not limited to:

- **Number of truancy citations issued in the past semester**
 - One truancy citation has been issued during the 25-26 school year
- **Number of truancy citations from prior semesters eventually expunged due to student compliance (include semester original citation was issued for each expunged instance)**

- None.
- **Number of truancy citation convictions from previous semesters (including the dispositions that were applied)**
 - None
- **Updated absentee and truancy rate numbers for the previous semester**
 - Semester 1 chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy data for the 2025–2026 school year were provided to the committee on January 28. In addition, Quarter 3 chronic absenteeism and habitual truancy data were shared with the committee on May 13.
- **Data should be provided in alignment with DPI reporting: for example: grade level, school, race/ethnicity, gender, disability status, economic status, EL status**
 - This information was shared with the committee on March 25 and will be updated again in June once full-year attendance data is available for the 2025–2026 school year. Due to confidentiality requirements, demographic data cannot be publicly shared if the population size is too small.
- **Track the counseling, supervised work program, and community service organizations utilized by students and compile a list of average costs**
 - This is not applicable at this time, as no students have been ordered to participate in these services and no related costs have been incurred.
- **Provide evidence of policy and applicable data per the recommendations of the 2018 Truancy Court Report including, but not limited to:**
 - **Orientation/guidance for judges involved in truancy matters including suggestions for a reasonable number of community service hours and education programs not including summer school**
 - This is not applicable at this time, as no judges are currently hearing truancy cases. Any student receiving a truancy citation would proceed through the Court Commissioner process.
 - **Maintain a community truancy task force which works collaboratively to meet the interests of the District, the courts, families, and students and reports to the school board**
 - An “Attendance Improvement Work Group” is currently being established. A timeline for the start of this work group was not included in the resolution. The first meeting is scheduled for September 30, and the group will meet seven times throughout the school year. We wanted to ensure broad representation, including school staff, community members, parents and guardians, and students. We also wanted to provide meeting dates well in advance so participants could commit to attending

consistently throughout the year. An open invitation to participate was shared with AASD families and the broader community last Friday.

- **Continue to survey comparable school districts in Wisconsin to improve internal processes and report to the school board**
 - The district contacted comparable districts and shared findings with both the Board of Education and the Common Council last fall. We continue to collaborate with other districts regarding attendance practices. Increasingly, however, other districts are reaching out to learn more about the work AASD is doing related to attendance improvement. Most other surrounding school districts use truancy citations as their initial intervention, rather than as a last resort. At this time, our Board of Education has not requested additional comparative reporting, however, we have sent another survey to nine comparable school districts in Wisconsin and will have results available in June.
- **Provide data for any case where the judiciary exceeds suggestions**
 - This is not applicable, as there has been no judiciary involvement.
- **Create a general contact email for parents or students dealing with attendance issues to seek help**
 - Direct contact information for both district attendance coordinators has been available on the district website since October. A general attendance email account would route directly to those coordinators, which is why the district chose to provide their individual email addresses and phone extensions.
- **Create student and family survey and vehicle for anonymous feedback that reports to the board**
 - Student survey results were shared with the committee on May 13. This survey was specific to high school attendance education lessons. A global survey related to attendance will be administered to all high school students at the beginning of next school year. The Appleton Area School District surveys families each spring. We are happy to administer an attendance-specific survey, provided further direction from the committee regarding what information should be included in the survey. Finally, earlier this month, a feedback form was added to the AASD website, allowing anonymous feedback to be shared directly with both the attendance coordinators and the Board of Education.