

POLICY 5.094

4-G I recommend the Board adopt the proposed revisions to Policy 5.094, entitled "Violation of Attendance Requirements for the Learnfare Program."

[Contact: Ronald Armstrong or Jim Woolridge, 434-8821.]

Adoption

CONSENT ITEM

- Based on information from Student Services, this proposed revision was suggested by the Legal Department to update the Policy to reflect current law and to facilitate cooperation with the Department of Children and Families concerning the Learnfare program, as required by Fla. Stat. § 414.1251(3).
- On Sept. 30, the Board approved this proposed revision for second reading/ adoption on Nov. 18 (rescheduled to Dec. 2).

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO POLICY 5.094
VIOLATION OF ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE LEARNFARE PROGRAM

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4 1. As required by § Fla. Stat. 414.1251(3), the School District shall cooperate with the
5 Florida Department of Children and Families ("DCF") to match the list of school-age
6 children received from DCF with their school records and furnish the names of
7 noncompliant Learnfare students via an electronic data match. The purposes of
8 this cooperation is to facilitate DCF's reduction of temporary cash assistance
9 ("TCA") when a participant's dependent school-age child(ren) is determined to be a
10 habitual truant or school dropout without good cause (or the parent or caretaker
11 relative, whose needs are included in the TCA assistance group, fails to attend a
12 school conference each semester).

- 13 2. ~~The Department of Children and Families shall reduce the benefit payments for a~~
14 ~~participant's eligible dependent child or for an eligible teenage participant who has~~
15 ~~not been exempted from education participation requirements~~ For purposes of this
16 Policy, habitual truancy is defined as having 15 unexcused absences in a 90-day
17 period. during a grading period in which the child or teenage participant has
18 accumulated a number of unexcused absences from school that is sufficient to
19 jeopardize the student's academic progress.

- 20 3. At the request of the parent/guardian, the School District may complete a
21 reinstatement form if the student meets the compliance requirements set forth in
22 Fla. Stat. § 414.1251(1):
 - 23 a. "For a student who has been identified as a habitual truant, the temporary
24 cash assistance must be reinstated after a subsequent grading period in which
25 in which the child's attendance has substantially improved," as stated in §
26 414.1251(1).

 - 27 b. For a student who has been identified as a dropout, the temporary cash
28 assistance must be reinstated after the student enrolls in a public school,
29 receives a high school diploma or its equivalent, enrolls in preparation for the
30 GED exam, or enrolls in other educational activities approved by the School
31 Board, as provided in Fla. Stat. § 414.1251(1).

- 32 4. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for providing a notification of compliance
33 to the appropriate DCF staff when a student who was sanctioned for failure to
34 comply with the Learnfare provisions for truancy or drop-out status later
35 demonstrates compliance with school attendance requirements.

- 36 5. For purposes of the Learnfare program, Good cause exemptions from the rule of
37 unexcused student absences include the following, as stated in Fla. Stat. §
38 414.1251: a) the student is expelled from school and alternative schooling is not
39 available, b) the teen has a child under 6 months of age, cb) no licensed day care
40 is available for a child of teen parents subject to Learnfare, or dc) prohibitive
41 transportation problems exist (e.g. to and from day care), e) the teen is over 16
42 years of age and not expected to graduate from high school by age 20.
- 43 6. Each recipient with a school-age child is required to have a conference with an
44 appropriate school official of the child's school during each grading period semester
45 to assure the recipient is involved in the child's educational progress and is aware
46 of any existing attendance or academic problems.
- 47 a. The School District shall be responsible for completing a DCF school
48 conference verification form or, in lieu of that form, may provide the requested
49 information on official District letterhead or by direct contact with the
50 appropriate DCF official.
- 51 b. As provided in F.A.C. r. 65A-4.2131, the caretaker relatives whose needs are
52 not included in the TCA assistance group, and parents or included caretaker
53 relatives that homeschool their children with the approval of the School
54 District, are exempt from the school conference requirement.
- 55 7. Any list or other documentation containing personally-identifiable student
56 information concerning truant children or dropouts provided to DCF by the School
57 District shall remain confidential as provided by Fla. Stat. § 228.093. Any list of
58 Temporary Cash Assistance recipients provided to the School District shall also
59 remain confidential as provided by law.
- 60 8. ~~For the purpose of this policy, an accumulated number of unexcused absences~~
61 ~~from school that is sufficient to jeopardize the student's academic progress will be~~
62 ~~15 days unexcused absences in any 90 day period.~~

63 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ 230.22(2); 230.23005(6), Fla. Stat. Section
64 409.1855, Florida Statutes

65 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 228.041(28), (29); 228.093(3)(d); 232.01;
66 414.1251, Fla. Stat. Section 228.041, Florida Statutes

67 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

68 SUPPLEMENTED: F.A.C. r. 65A-4.2131 ~~10C-1.518 (11), Florida~~
69 ~~Administrative Code; 10C-32.227(7)(d), Florida~~
70 ~~Administrative Code~~

71 HISTORY ADOPTED: 05/07/97; __/__/__

Legal signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 5.094 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date