



NOTICE OF POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT NON-ENROLLMENT/NON-ATTENDANCE

FOR THE PARENT, CUSTODIAN, AND GUARDIAN:

Each parent and legal guardian of a child within the compulsory school attendance age (6 years through 16 years) is legally responsible for the child's school attendance as required by law. Florida law (§1003.26) states that the Superintendent is responsible for enforcing school attendance of all children and youth subject to the compulsory school age in the school district, and also provides:

- The Superintendent shall institute a criminal prosecution against the student's parent in each case of nonenrollment or nonattendance of the student, when no valid reason for nonenrollment or nonattendance is found. The court may find the parent guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. The court may also order the parent or legal guardian to participate in an approved child training class, attend school with the child, perform community service at the school, or participate in counseling or other services.
- The Superintendent may file a truancy petition in the circuit court. The court could order the parent, guardian, or legal custodian to participate in homemaker or parent aide services, to participate in intensive crisis counseling, to participate in community mental health services, to participate in voluntary or community agency services, and to participate in vocational, job training, or employment services.
- A Child in Need of Services Petition may be filed in circuit court by the Department of Juvenile Justice. The court may order the parent, guardian, or custodian to participate in treatment, family and other counseling services, and other court-ordered services; to pay a fine or fee; to perform community service; and to pay support for the child. Additionally, the court may remove the child from the care and custody of the parent, guardian or custodian.
- The Circuit Court may enter an order in "families in need of services" situations which require the parent, guardian, or custodian to participate in a variety of court-ordered services, and to contribute to the cost of those services.
- If the parent, guardian, or custodian does not comply with the orders of the court, the court may find the parent, guardian, or custodian in contempt of court and may order a fine to be paid, time in jail, or both.

FOR THE STUDENT:

Consequences to the student for nonenrollment or nonattendance can include the following:

- Contacting the student's parent(s), guardian(s), or custodian(s) to schedule a conference concerning the student's non-attendance.
- Implementing truancy interventions by the Child Study Team as required by law.
- Adverse grades and penalties for course work and class assignments.
- Failure to be promoted to the next grade or to graduate from school.
- Suspension or denial of driving privileges for students ages 14 through 18 years.
- The filing of a truancy petition or Child in Need of Services petition in court. The court may order the student to attend school, perform community service, pay a fine or fee, participate in counseling services, and perform other court-ordered services. Additionally, the court may place the student in the custody of an agency or adult, remove the student from the student's home, and put the student in a detention facility.