

Hermon School Department

Truancy

A student is habitually truant if the student:

- A. is subject to the compulsory attendance law; and
- B. has attained the equivalent of ten full days of nonexcused absences or seven consecutive school days of nonexcused absences during a school year.

The Hermon School Committee shall appoint one or more attendance coordinators in accordance with state law. The following statutory provisions shall be followed when a student is habitually truant.

- A. If the principal and the attendance coordinator determine that a student is habitually truant, the principal shall inform the superintendent. The superintendent shall first try to correct the problem informally by asking the student's parents to attend a series of meetings with their child's teacher or other school personnel designated by the superintendent. The purpose of the meetings is to describe the education program to the parents and explain the value of their child attending an educational program, including but not limited to school, adult education, a high school equivalency degree program and other alternative programs. The superintendent shall arrange meeting times convenient to the parents.
- B. If the principal and the attendance coordinator are unable to correct the problem, the superintendent shall refer the matter to the School Committee along with the attendance coordinator's report, the principal's report and any other useful information.

- C. The School Committee shall call a hearing and shall notify the student's parents of the date and time of the hearing; the purpose; the parent's right to inspect the student's attendance records and the attendance reports; and the necessity of the parents' and student's attendance at the meeting.
- D. If the School Committee determines that the student is habitually truant, it shall either instruct the student to attend school as required by the compulsory attendance law and advise the parents of their responsibility under the law to assure the student's attendance or waive the requirements of 20-A MRSA § 5001-A if the student is 15 years of age or older. A parent may appeal the School Committee's decision to the commissioner of education.
- E. When a student is determined to be habitually truant and in violation of the compulsory attendance law and the superintendent has made a good faith attempt to meet the requirements of paragraph A.1. above, the superintendent may notify the local law enforcement department of the decision. After this notification, a local law enforcement officer who sees a truant may offer to transport the truant to the appropriate school as provided in the truancy law.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 5001-A; 5052-5054.