



POLICY 5.094

5-H I recommend that the Board approve development of the proposed revised Policy 5.094, entitled "Violation of Attendance Requirements for the Learnfare Program."

[Contact: Ira Margulies, PX 45857.]

Development

CONSENT ITEM

- Language has been added to this revision to provide for the District's compliance with Fla. Stat. § 414.1251 with regard to required attendance and parent/caretaker conference information on student dependents and teenage parents receiving cash assistance.
- This revision also updates statutory references.

POLICY 5.094

1 VIOLATION OF ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LEARNFARE
2 PROGRAM
3

- 4 1. Purpose. To provide for the School District's compliance with state laws and
5 rules requiring students of cash assistance recipients and teenage parents to
6 attend school regularly ("Learnfare Program").
- 7 2. Policy. Students who are dependents of cash assistance recipients and
8 teenage parents who are cash assistance recipients are required to attend school
9 regularly. The School District shall comply with the provisions of Section
10 414.1251, Florida Statutes, as now or hereafter amended, and any applicable
11 cooperative agreement between the School District and the State of Florida, to
12 provide any required attendance and parent/caretaker conference information on
13 student dependents and teenage parents receiving temporary cash assistance
14 from the state.
- 15 a. The School District shall further notify the Florida Department of Children and
16 Families(DCF) when a child of a cash assistance recipient ,or a teenage
17 parent cash assistance recipient, is identified as a habitual truant, pursuant to
18 Section 1003.01(8), Florida Statutes, or a drop out, pursuant to Section
19 1003.01(9), Florida Statutes.

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

29 ~~For purposes of this Policy, habitual truancy is defined as having 15~~
30 ~~unexcused absences in a 90-day period.~~

- 31 b. At the request of the parent/caretaker, the School District may complete a
32 reinstatement form, or the conference verification form, if the student meets
33 the compliance requirements set forth in Fla. Stat. § 414.1251(1); as now or
34 hereafter amended.

35 ~~"For a student who has been identified as a habitual truant, the temporary~~
36 ~~cash assistance must be reinstated after a subsequent grading period in which~~

37 ~~in which the child's attendance has substantially improved," as stated in §~~
38 ~~414.1251(1).~~

39 ~~For a student who has been identified as a dropout, the temporary cash~~
40 ~~assistance must be reinstated after the student enrolls in a public school,~~
41 ~~receives a high school diploma or its equivalent, enrolls in preparation for the~~
42 ~~GED exam, or enrolls in other educational activities approved by the School~~
43 ~~Board, as provided in Fla. Stat. § 414.1251(1).~~

44 3. Parent/School Conference. Each parent/caretaker of a student who is a recipient
45 of cash assistance is required to have a school conference during each semester.

46 a. The conference must address the student's educational progress, focusing
47 upon acceptable attendance, grades and behavior.

48 b. The conference must be documented by the School District and reported to
49 DCF.

50 4. Parental Responsibility. The parent/caretaker guardian shall be responsible for
51 providing a notification of compliance to the appropriate DCF staff when a student
52 who was sanctioned for failure to comply with the Learnfare provisions for truancy
53 or drop-out status later demonstrates compliance with school attendance
54 requirements.

55 ~~For purposes of the Learnfare program, good cause exemptions from the rule of~~
56 ~~unexcused student absences include the following, as stated in Fla. Stat. §~~
57 ~~414.1251:-~~

58 ~~the student is expelled from school and alternative schooling is not available;-~~

59 ~~no licensed day care is available for a child of teen parents subject to~~
60 ~~Learnfare; or-~~

61 ~~prohibitive transportation problems exist (e.g. to and from day care).~~

62 ~~Each recipient with a school-age child is required to have a conference with an~~
63 ~~appropriate school official of the child's school during each semester to assure the~~
64 ~~recipient is involved in the child's educational progress and is aware of any existing~~
65 ~~attendance or academic problems.~~

66 ~~The School District shall be responsible for completing a DCF school~~
67 ~~conference verification form or, in lieu of that form, may provide the requested~~
68 ~~information on official District letterhead or by direct contact with the~~
69 ~~appropriate DCF official.~~

70 ~~As provided in F.A.C. r. 65A-4.2131, the caretaker relatives whose needs are~~

71 not included in the TCA assistance group, and parents or included caretaker
72 relatives that homeschool their children with the approval of the School
73 District, are exempt from the school conference requirement.

74 5. Confidentiality of Records. Any list or other documentation containing personally-
75 identifiable student information concerning truant children or dropouts provided to
76 DCF by the School District shall remain confidential as provided by law. Fla. Stat. §
77 ~~228.093~~. Any list of Temporary Cash Assistance recipients provided to the School
78 District shall also remain confidential as provided by law.

79 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ ~~230.22(2); 230.23005(6)~~

80 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ 414.1251, 1003.21 ~~228.041(28), (29);~~
81 ~~228.093(3)(d); 232.01; 414.1251~~

82 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULE: 65A-4.2131, FAC

83 HISTORY: 05/07/97; 12/2/02; __/__/2008

Legal Signoff:

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

Attorney

Date