



Annual Truancy Report

August 2016

Unexcused Absences for Minors

A breakdown of the incidents of truancy, as required by §38-203(i) (A), is included in Table 1 below. This data represents compulsory school-aged students (ages 5 through 17) enrolled in SY15-16.

Table 1: Unexcused Absences Counting Towards Truancy by Grade

Grade	Enrollment	# 1-5 Absences	
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Student Support Teams

Attendance Student Support Teams (SSTs) are school-based, problem-solving teams that provide teachers, students and families with support for students who present attendance concerns. Attendance SST members—including attendance staff, administrators, school counselors, social workers, school nurses and other relevant school level support staff, in addition to families, and sometimes students—use a collaborative process to: (1) assess student needs and set positive goals; (2) identify barriers to attendance; (3) recommend strategies that students, families, and school staff can implement to improve attendance; and (4) develop and monitor attendance support plans.

In SY15-16, 15,560 students accrued 5 or more unexcused absences, resulting in attendance SST referrals.⁶

Referrals to Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)

In SY15-16, 1,956 of the 2,439 eligible students⁷ (80.2%) were referred to CFSA for educational neglect. In SY14-15, 2,170 of the 2,713 eligible students⁸ (80%) were referred to CFSA for educational neglect, and in SY 13-14, 1,177 of 2,550 students were referred to CFSA (46%). The increase in referrals since SY13-14 represents DCPS' stricter application of the rules due to additional training and enhanced emphasis on this requirement, as well as weekly monitoring and support from the OYE Attendance Team. DCPS continues to strive for 100% compliance in this area.

The table below illustrates the distribution of referrals to CFSA across grade levels. Again this year, the largest number of referrals was made to address absences in Kindergarten. Kindergarten marks the first full year of compulsory school attendance, yet our schools are challenged to correct the impression that Kindergarten is optional daycare for these students

In SY15-16, DCPS referred 1023⁹ of 3,710 eligible students¹⁰ (28%) to Court Social Services (CSS). Last year,

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Valid Reasons for Absence

Lawful reasons for absence are

