



July 2012

Annual Truancy Report

Submitted by: Office of Youth Engagement

Introduction

Pursuant section 38-202 (j) of the DC Code, this report contains an overview of truancy data for school year 2011-2012. Specifically, the report includes:

- data on unexcused absences accrued by minors ages 5-17 years old
- the number of educational neglect referrals made to the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) by DCPS school staff working with 5-13 year olds
- valid reasons for absence
- policy recommendations and considerations to strengthen citywide attendance intervention

Unexcused Absences for Minors

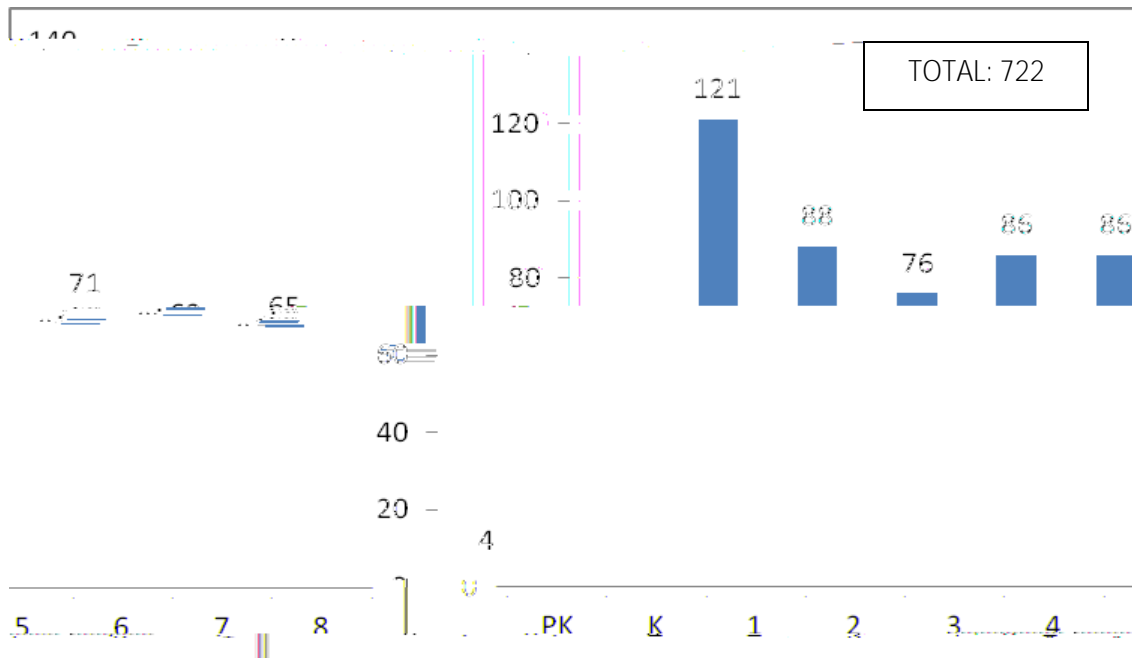
In SY11-12, 30,075 students of compulsory school age (5 t

Educational Neglect Referrals

This year, school staff referred 722 students to the Child and Family Services Agency for educational neglect out of 3,510 students who are ages 5 - 13 who accumulated 10 or more unexcused absences. This is a 21% compliance rate with the law.

The below table illustrates the distribution of referrals across grade levels. The largest share of referrals were made to address absences in kindergarten. Kindergarten marks the first full year of compulsory school attendance. While early intervention is critical this year, it is also important to instill a habit of strong school attendance in pre-school and pre-kindergarten.

Figure 1 Educational Neglect Referrals by Grade



Note: Pre-Kindergarten referrals made for students who turned five years old during the school year.

Valid Reasons for Absence

Lawful reasons for absence are articulated in DCMR Chapter 21, Section A2102.2. DC Public Schools abides by these regulations in determining valid absences. The following absences may be excused:

- five or more days)
- Medical or dental appointment for the student
- Death in the family
- Exclusion due to quarantine, contagious disease, etc.
- Necessity for a student to attend a judicial proceeding as a plaintiff, defendant, witness or juror
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Lawful exclusion or expulsion by school authorities
- Temporary facility closings due to weather, unsafe conditions or other emergencies
- Authorized Employment or other volunteer work for student at least 17 years old
- Failure of DC to provide transportation where legally responsible
- Emergency or circumstances approved by LEA

When school-aged students are absent from school without a valid excuse from the above list, this absence is an unexcused absence regardless of whether the student has parental approval. Examples of unexcused absences include:



