TRUANCY 900.18

The District Administrator shall be responsible for enforcing school attendance and shall have authority to perform duties of "school attendance officer" as described in Wisconsin Statutes.

Unauthorized absence from school is truancy and shall be treated as such. This includes absence from any class or activity during the school day for which the student is scheduled. The District Administrator shall develop and administer the necessary procedures to deal with cases of truancy. Such procedures shall include those mandated by Wisconsin Statutes as summarizes:

Truancy means any absence of one or more days from school during which the school attendance officer or teacher has not been notified of a legal reason as stated in 118.16, Wisconsin Statutes. Truancy also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of 118.16.

The District Administrator may request a statement from a local health officer, physician or nurse explaining the pupil's absence.

Thorough attendance records shall be maintained for all pupils enrolled in the District. The reasons for all absences shall be recorded and filed for each pupil.

The District Administrator may apprehend without warrant any child violating 118.16 and place the child in school. – *This is permissible only if the District Administrator is directly involved in the provision of educational programs to the truant child or is directly involved in the provision of a modified program or curriculum under s. 11815 (1)(d), or a program for children at risk under s. 118.153 or any other alternative educational program to children who attend the school attended by the truant child, if the school district administrator believes that the program or curriculum may be appropriate for the truant child.*

In addition to the above, the District Administrator shall develop positive procedures to work with truancy cases. Such procedures shall include working with the following people and/or agencies when necessary with the objective of establishing regular attendance:

Disciplinary action shall be taken in such cases, beginning with notification of parents. Continued violation may lead to consequences such as detention, or assigned to a supervised directed study program, or suspension from school. However, under no circumstances may the district deny school credit to a student solely on the basis of unexcused absences.

REFERENCE: Wis. Stats.: 118.15
118.16

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