

2021 Kansas Statutes

72-3121. Same; noncompliance; duties of boards of education, secretary for children and families, county and district attorneys; agreements between secretary and county or district attorneys, duties; notification of absence to parents. (a) Each board of education shall designate one or more employees who shall report to the secretary for children and families, or a designee thereof, or to the appropriate county or district attorney pursuant to an agreement as provided in this section, all cases of children who are less than 13 years of age and are not attending school as required by law, and to the appropriate county or district attorney, or a designee thereof, all cases of children who are 13 or more years of age but less than 18 years of age and are not attending school as required by law. The designation shall be made no later than September 1 of each school year and shall be certified no later than 10 days thereafter by the board of education to the secretary for children and families, or the designee thereof, to the county or district attorney, or the designee thereof, and to the commissioner of education. The commissioner of education shall compile and maintain a list of the designated employees of each board of education. The local area office of the Kansas department for children and families may enter into an agreement with the appropriate county or district attorney to provide that the designated employees of such board of education shall make the report as provided in this section for all cases of children who are less than 13 years of age and are not attending school as provided by law to the county or district attorney in lieu of the secretary, or the secretary's designee. If such agreement is made, the county or district attorney shall carry out all duties as otherwise provided by this subsection conferred on the secretary or the secretary's designee. A copy of such agreement shall be provided to the director of such area office of the Kansas department for children and families and to the school districts affected by the agreement.

(b) Whenever a child is required by law to attend school, and the child is not enrolled in a public or nonpublic school, the child shall be considered to be not attending school as required by law and a report thereof shall be made in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) by a designated employee of the board of education of the school district in which the child resides. The provisions of this subsection are subject to the provisions of subsection (d).

(c) (1) Whenever a child is required by law to attend school and is enrolled in school, and the child is inexcusably absent therefrom on either three consecutive school days or five school days in any semester or seven school days in any school year, whichever of the foregoing occurs first, the child shall be considered to be not attending school as required by law. A child is inexcusably absent from school if the child is absent therefrom all or a significant part of a school day without a valid excuse acceptable to the school employee designated by the board of education to have responsibility for the school attendance of such child.

(2) Each board of education shall adopt rules for determination of valid excuse for absence from school and for determination of what shall constitute a "significant part of a school day" for the purpose of this section.

(3) Each board of education shall designate one or more employees, who shall each be responsible for determining the acceptability and validity of offered excuses for absence from school of specified children, so that a designee is responsible for making such determination for each child enrolled in school.

(4) Whenever a determination is made in accordance with the provisions of this subsection that a child is not attending school as required by law, the designated employee who is responsible for such determination shall make a report thereof in accordance with

the provisions of subsection (a), provided that the report would not violate the terms of the memorandum of understanding approved by the superintendent of the school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-6143(i), and amendments thereto.

(5) The provisions of this subsection are subject to the provisions of subsection (d).

(d) (1) Prior to making any report under this section that a child is not attending school as required by law, the designated employee of the board of education shall serve written notice thereof, by personal delivery or by first class mail, upon a parent or person acting as parent of the child. The notice shall inform the parent or person acting as parent that continued failure of the child to attend school without a valid excuse will result in a report being made to the secretary for children and families or to the county or district attorney. Upon failure, on the school day next succeeding personal delivery of the notice or within three school days after the notice was mailed, of attendance at school by the child or of an acceptable response, as determined by the designated employee, to the notice by a parent or person acting as parent of the child, the designated employee shall make a report thereof in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a). The designated employee shall submit with the report a certificate verifying the manner in which notice was provided to the parent or person acting as parent.

(2) Whenever a law enforcement officer assumes temporary custody of a child who is found away from home or school without a valid excuse during the hours school is actually in session, and the law enforcement officer delivers the child to the school in which the child is enrolled or to a location designated by the school in which the child is enrolled to address truancy issues, the designated employee of the board of education shall serve notice thereof upon a parent or person acting as parent of the child. The notice may be oral or written and shall inform the parent or person acting as parent of the child that the child was absent from school without a valid excuse and was delivered to school by a law enforcement officer.

(e) Whenever the secretary for children and families receives a report required under this section, the secretary shall investigate the matter. If, during the investigation, the secretary determines that the reported child is not attending school as required by law, the secretary shall institute proceedings under the revised Kansas code for care of children. If, during the investigation, the secretary determines that a criminal prosecution should be considered, the secretary shall make a report of the case to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(f) Whenever a county or district attorney receives a report required under this section, the county or district attorney shall investigate the matter. If, during the investigation, the county or district attorney determines that the reported child is not attending school as required by law, the county or district attorney shall prepare and file a petition alleging that the child is a child in need of care. If, during the investigation, the county or district attorney determines that a criminal prosecution is necessary, the county or district attorney shall commence such action.

(g) As used in this section, "board of education" means the board of education of a school district or the governing authority of a nonpublic school. The provisions of this act shall apply to both public and nonpublic schools.

History: L. 1969, ch. 316, § 2; L. 1972, ch. 254, § 1; L. 1973, ch. 279, § 1; L. 1976, ch. 145, § 231; L. 1982, ch. 182, § 141; L. 1986, ch. 158, § 3; L. 1989, ch. 215, § 1; L. 1991, ch. 221, § 1; L. 1995, ch. 29, § 3; L. 1996, ch. 229, § 122; L. 1997, ch. 157, § 2; L. 2000, ch. 150, § 32; L. 2006, ch. 200, § 113; L. 2014, ch. 115, § 286; L. 2016, ch. 46, § 56; July 1, 2017.