

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of ACT 745 which provides for the circumstances under which a student shall be considered habitually absent or tardy. It also provides for the parents of these children.

Under this new act passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, a student is considered habitually absent or tardy when they have accumulated five unexcused absences or tardies or have been checked out of school prior to the end of the regular school day five times within any school semester.

The parents of children found to be habitually absent or tardy shall be punished as follows:

- **FIRST OFFENSE** – A fine of fifty dollars or not less than twenty-five hours of community service.
- **SECOND OFFENSE** – Punished in accordance with R.S. 17:221 which provides for a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars and/or thirty days in jail.

The principal or his designee must inform the parent/guardian in writing on the **THIRD** unexcused absence, tardy, or early check out and must hold a conference informing the parent/guardian of the possible consequences. The parent/guardian shall sign documentation of attending a conference.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Child Welfare and Attendance should you have any questions regarding this new truancy law.

Respectfully,

Child Welfare and Attendance Department

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