

What is Senate File 2435?

Senate File 2435 is a new law that further defines chronic absenteeism and truancy. The law outlines required intervention measures schools must take when student absences reach specific levels. The UCSD Board of Education has updated 'Policy 508 Attendance Requirements' and 'Policy 625 Compulsory Education' to align with SF 2435.



Being Here Matters

Iowa schools are required by law to take the following actions when student absences reach these levels:

10% Chronically Absent

If a student is absent for 10% of a grading period, the student is considered chronically absent. The school is required to notify the county attorney and notify the family.

15% Family Meeting & Weekly Check-Ins

If a student is absent for 15% of a grading period, the school will schedule a meeting with the family to develop a plan for improving attendance. The school will conduct weekly check-ins with the student and family.

20% Truancy & Civil Enforcement

If a student is absent for 20% of a grading period, the student is considered truant. The school is required to notify the county attorney who will proceed with decisions about civil enforcement of compulsory education laws. **Continued Open Enrollment may be denied.**

Calculating Absences Per Grading Period

Absences are calculated per grading period and reset at the start of a new grading period. For elementary, each trimester is a new grading period. For secondary (middle/high), each semester is a new grading period.

Elementary:

10% = 6 days
15% = 9 days
20% = 12 days
absent per trimester

Secondary:

10% = 9 days
15% = 14 days
20% = 18 days
absent per semester

Most absences (both excused and unexcused) will count toward chronic absenteeism. However, legitimate medical reasons for absences, plus other specified reasons, are exempt under this new law.

Learn more: urbandaleschools.com/absent

