



Louisa-Muscatine Community School District

We Value, We Challenge, We Prepare Every Student Every Day.

September 27, 2024

Superintendent
Mike Van Sickle

mvansickle@lmcsd.org

Director of Instruction
Amy Lantigua

alantigua@lmcsd.org

Business
Manager
Charles Domer

cdomer@lmcsd.org

Junior High/High School
Principal

John Kerr

jkerr@lmcsd.org

Elementary
Principal

Aimee Wedeking

awedeking@lmcsd.org

Activities Director
Ken Spielbauer

kspielbauer@lmcsd.org

Web site:

<http://www.lmcsd.org>

Dear L-M Parents:

Due to recent legislative changes on how school districts in Iowa are required to respond to student absenteeism, we will be updating our policies to reflect the updated law.

SF 2435 Addressing Chronic Absenteeism:

Iowa's new law on school attendance and student absenteeism introduces several key changes aimed at improving attendance and addressing chronic absenteeism.

Major changes include: mandatory letters to parents, mandatory parent meetings, and mandatory letters to the county attorney.

This Senate File defines **Chronic Absenteeism** as: missing **10%** of school days or hours in a grading period. **(This is 9 days per semester.)**

- When a student becomes chronically absent, the school district must notify the county attorney and send a notice to parents of their child's absences.
- When a student is absent for **15%** **(14 days per semester of school days)**, a meeting with the student, parent, and school official is required. The meeting will identify barriers to attendance and interventions to improve attendance.

This Senate File defines **Truancy** as: missing **20%** **(18 per semester)** of school days or hours in a grading period.

- Truancy is filed with the county attorney when a parent does not attend the School Engagement Meeting, does not enter into an Absenteeism Prevention Plan, or violates the terms of the Absenteeism Prevention Plan.

Central Office
14478 170th Street
Letts, Iowa 52754
319.726.3541
Fax: 319.726.3334

Jr/Sr High School
14354 170th Street
Letts, Iowa 52754
319.726.3421
Fax: 319.726.3649

Elementary School
14506 170th Street
Letts, Iowa 52754
319.726.3634
Fax: 319.726.4600

Truancy Continued:

Open Enrollment: The bill reinstates the March 1 deadline for open enrollment requests. There are still [good cause exceptions](#). If an open enrolled student is deemed truant, the receiving district can prohibit the student from remaining enrolled and prohibit them from enrolling.

Absence Categorization

Parents and guardians will still contact their child's building to notify them of any absence, but in alignment with the state's new law, the state has changed how we must record absences and how districts can categorize those absences. **The new legislation does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences with the exception of:**

- Attendance at a school-related event like a field trip or participating in an extracurricular activity.
- Completion of graduation requirements or high school equivalency diploma.
- Excused for sufficient training reason by a court or judge.
- Attendance at religious services or religious instruction.
- Inability to attend due to legitimate medical reasons.
- An individualized education program (IEP) affecting attendance.
- A plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act affecting attendance.
- Attendance at other approved institutions (college prep, accredited nonpublic school, homeschooling, etc.)

Mike Van Sickle,



Louisa- Muscatine Superintendent