

1 substantially improved. For a student who has been identified
2 as a dropout, the temporary cash assistance must be reinstated
3 after the student enrolls in a public school, receives a high
4 school diploma or its equivalency, enrolls in preparation for
5 the General Educational Development Tests, or enrolls in other
6 educational activities approved by the district school board.
7 Good cause exemptions from the rule of unexcused absences
8 include the following:

9 (a) The student is expelled from school and
10 alternative schooling is not available.

11 (b) No licensed day care is available for a child of
12 teen parents subject to Learnfare.

13 (c) Prohibitive transportation problems exist (e.g.,
14 to and from day care).

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16 Within 10 days after sanction notification, the participant
17 parent of a dependent child or the teenage participant may
18 file an internal fair hearings process review procedure
19 appeal, and no sanction shall be imposed until the appeal is
20 resolved.

21 (2) Each participant with a school-age child is
22 required to have a conference with an appropriate school
23 official of the child's school during each semester to assure
24 that the participant is involved in the child's educational
25 progress and is aware of any existing attendance or academic
26 problems. The conference must address acceptable student
27 attendance, grades, and behavior and must be documented by the
28 school and reported to the department. The department shall
29 notify a school of any student in attendance at that school
30 who is a participant in the Learnfare program in order that
31 the required conferences are held. A participant who without

1 good cause fails to attend a conference with a school official
2 is subject to the sanction provided in subsection (1). The
3 temporary cash assistance shall be reinstated after the
4 participant attends the conference with the appropriate school
5 official and that conference is documented by the school and
6 reported to the department.

7 (3) The department shall develop an electronic data
8 transfer system to enable the department to collect, report,
9 and share data accurately and efficiently. In order to ensure
10 accountability and assess the effectiveness of the Learnfare
11 program, the department shall compile information including,
12 but not limited to, the number of students and families
13 reported by school districts as out of compliance, the number
14 of students and families sanctioned as a result, and the
15 number of students and families reinstated after becoming
16 compliant. The information compiled shall be submitted in the
17 form of an annual report to the presiding officers of the
18 Legislature by March 1.

19 Section 2. Subsection (28) of section 228.041, Florida
20 Statutes, is amended to read:

21 228.041 Definitions.--Specific definitions shall be as
22 follows, and wherever such defined words or terms are used in
23 the Florida School Code, they shall be used as follows:

24 (28) HABITUAL TRUANT.--A habitual truant is a student
25 who has 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or
26 without the knowledge or consent of the student's parent or
27 legal guardian, is subject to compulsory school attendance
28 under s. 232.01, and is not exempt under s. 232.06 or s.
29 232.09, or by meeting the criteria for any other exemption
30 specified by law or rules of the State Board of Education.
31 Such a student must have been the subject of the activities

1 specified in ss. 232.17 and 232.19(3), without resultant
2 successful remediation of the truancy problem before being
3 dealt with as a child in need of services according to the
4 provisions of chapter 984.

5 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (15) of section
6 230.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 230.23 Powers and duties of school board.--The school
8 board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and
9 perform all duties listed below:

10 (15) PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
11 PROGRAM.--

12 (b) ~~District school boards shall~~ Encourage teachers
13 and administrators to keep parents and guardians informed of
14 student progress, student programs, student attendance
15 requirements pursuant to ss. 232.17, 232.19, 414.1251, and
16 984.151, and availability of resources for academic
17 assistance.

18 Section 4. Section 414.125, Florida Statutes, is
19 repealed.

20 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
21 law.

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