

1 AN ACT relating to school truancy.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 159.150 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) Any student who has **entered the primary school program or** attained the age of six
5 (6) years, but has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday, who has been absent
6 from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid
7 excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.
- 8 (2) Any student enrolled in a public school who has attained the age of eighteen (18)
9 years, but has not reached his or her twenty-first birthday, who has been absent from
10 school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid
11 excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.
- 12 (3) Any student who has been reported as a truant two (2) or more times is an habitual
13 truant.
- 14 (4) For the purposes of establishing a student's status as a truant, the student's
15 attendance record is cumulative for an entire school year. If a student transfers from
16 one (1) Kentucky public school to another during a school year, the receiving school
17 shall incorporate the attendance information provided under KRS 159.170 in the
18 student's official attendance record.
- 19 (5) A local board of education may adopt reasonable policies that:
- 20 (a) Require students to comply with compulsory attendance laws;
- 21 (b) Require truants and habitual truants to make up unexcused absences;
- 22 (c) Impose sanctions for noncompliance; and
- 23 (d) Collaborate and cooperate with the Court of Justice, the Department for
24 Community Based Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, regional
25 community mental health centers, and other service providers to implement
26 and utilize early intervention and prevention programs, such as truancy
27 diversion, truancy boards, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution to

1 reduce referrals to a court-designated worker.