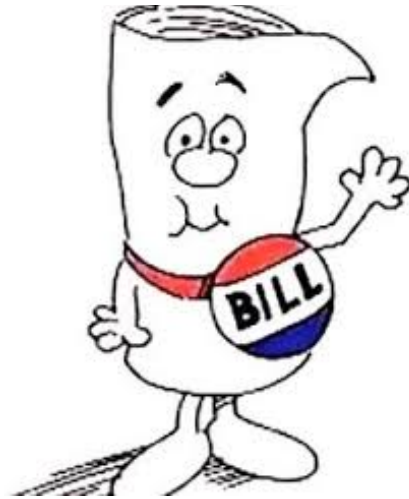


Policy and Legal Services Newsletter



2021 Legislative Update

WE MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER LEGISLATIVE SESSION, AND THIS NEWSLETTER OUTLINES SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES THAT WERE MADE TO OUR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES DUE TO RECENT LEGISLATION.

Wondering what is going on with breakfast??? As some of you may recall, deadlines had previously been put in place for the adoption of alternative breakfast service models in our schools. Due to the pandemic, all those deadlines have been pushed back a year! For more information on these deadlines, please contact Kelly Orton or refer to Section II in the [G-6: Administrative Procedures, Child Nutrition Food Service Management](#).

EVER WORRY THAT A STUDENT WILL GET LEFT ON THE BUS? Well, now state law requires all bus drivers to inspect their entire bus at the end of every route! For more information about this requirement, please contact Kelly Orton or refer to Section I.B in the [G-8: Administrative Procedures, Transporting Students](#).

Need a mental health day? Well state law now states that a valid and legitimate reason for students to be excused from school includes their mental or behavioral health. Moreover, documentation from a medical professional is not required to substantiate a valid excuse of a mental or physical illness. If you have any questions about absences or valid excuses, please contact Mindi Holmdahl or refer to Section II of the [S-4: Administrative Procedures, Student Attendance and Exemption from School](#).

If you have **children of military families who are enrolling in your school**, please be sure to review the updated special provisions governing their enrollment. This information can be found in the [S-1: Administrative Procedures, School Admissions](#), or for further questions please contact Mindi Holmdahl.

Unfortunately, suicide affects youth of all ages. As a result of the growing need for youth suicide prevention programs at the elementary school level, state law now requires that we provide a youth suicide prevention program to elementary students that covers the following components:

1. life affirming education, including the concepts of resiliency, healthy habits, self-care, problem solving, conflict resolution;
2. methods for strengthening the family; and
3. methods of strengthening a youth's relationships in the school and community.

The first component listed above will also be included in our youth suicide prevention program for secondary students. For more information on these programs, please contact Mindi Holmdahl or refer to the [G-21: Administrative Procedures, Youth Suicide Prevention Programs](#).

Do you have parents questioning what curriculum the district uses? State law now requires that all curriculum that the district uses be readily available for parents to view. Additionally, the district will notify parents annually of how to access the district's curriculum, and this information will be posted on the district's website. For any questions about the district's curriculum, please contact Dr. Tiffany Hall or refer to the [I-7: Administrative Procedures, Curriculum and Instructional Materials](#).

Is your school's website getting cluttered? Well good news, state law just removed the requirements that certain information related to your school community councils be posted on your website. For example, you no longer have to post the proposed SCC meeting schedule; contact information for each SCC member; an invitation to parents to serve on the SCC, and other items have been removed as well! For a current list of what needs to be posted on your website, please contact Yándary Chatwin or refer to Section III of the [I-23: Administrative Procedures, Websites and Social Media](#).

Truancy and/or Compulsory Education Violations in the 2021-2022 school year??? NOT SO FAST!!! Please note that state law has pressed pause on the issuance of any truancy violations and/or compulsory education violations for the 2021-2022 school year. To be clear, no such violations can be issued. School staff can still work with families to address attendance concerns through other interventions, but notices of violations cannot be issued. For more information about what options are available to you to address chronic absenteeism, please contact Dr. Sandra Buendia or Erika Marks.

Please be aware that *state law now permits DCFS to file a report with UPPAC against any licensed educator* who it believes knowingly failed to report suspected abuse, neglect, fetal alcohol syndrome, or fetal drug dependency --- all forms of child abuse. As a reminder all employees are required to report suspected child abuse to DCFS or a law enforcement official. If you have any questions about reporting child abuse, please contact Mozelle Orton, Kristina Kindl, or Mindi Holmdahl, or refer to the [S-8: Administrative Procedures, Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting and Training](#).