

DONNA J. BEASLEY TECHNICAL ACDEMY
ATTENDANCE POLICY AMENDEMNT

AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2022

2022 Florida Statute

1003.26 Enforcement of school attendance.

The Legislature finds that poor academic performance is associated with nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving student performance. It is the policy of the state that each district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing school attendance of all students subject to the compulsory school age in the school district and supporting enforcement of school attendance by local law enforcement agencies. The responsibility includes recommending policies and procedures to the district school board that require public schools to respond in a timely manner to every unexcused absence, and every absence for which the reason is unknown, of students enrolled in the schools. District school board policies shall require the parent of a student to justify each absence of the student, and that justification will be evaluated based on adopted district school board policies that define excused and unexcused absences. The policies must provide that public schools track excused and unexcused absences and contact the home in the case of an unexcused absence from school, or an absence from school for which the reason is unknown, to prevent the development of patterns of nonattendance. The Legislature finds that early intervention in school attendance is the most effective way of producing good attendance habits that will lead to improved student learning and achievement.

The Donna J. Beasley Technical Academy runs two daily sessions. The morning session is from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm and the afternoon session is from 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Students are enrolled into one session, with seniors and those being candidates for graduation having first consideration for the morning session.

1. The student will maintain daily attendance. The only exceptions will be due to:
 - Illness of self or an immediate family member requiring assistance.
 - Medical appointment.
 - Death in the family.
 - Hospitalization.
 - Religious observance.
 - Immigration or court appearance.
 - School-sponsored events.
 - Situations beyond the control of parent or student, as determined and approved by the principal or the principal's designee.

Doctor, dentist, and other appointments are to be made after school if it is at all possible.

2. To avoid being marked as an “unexcused” absence, the student agrees to provide a note signed by the parent/guardian explaining the absence and containing home/work contact numbers. Students must have official documentation with the signed note if absence is due to an appointment/court date. Notes must be submitted the day the student returns to school.

3. To avoid being marked as an “unexcused absence”, students must sign the Daily Attendance sheet when entering each day and work at the campus (brick/mortar) for a minimum of 2 hours.
4. Although students have access to the digital curriculum at home, Donna J. Beasley Technical Academy is not a virtual school. Students will be marked as an “unexcused” absence should they only work from home, regardless of completed assignments.

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b) If a student has had at least five unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90- calendar-day period, the student’s primary teacher shall report to the school principal or his or her designee that the student may be exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. The principal shall, unless there is clear evidence that the absences are not a pattern of nonattendance, refer the case to the school’s child study team to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing. If the child study team finds that a pattern of nonattendance is developing, whether the absences are excused or not, a meeting with the parent must be scheduled to identify potential remedies, and the principal shall notify the district school superintendent and the school district contact for home education programs that the referred student is exhibiting a pattern of nonattendance. (c) If an initial meeting does not resolve the problem, the child study team shall implement the following:

1. Frequent attempts at communication between the teacher and the family.
2. Evaluation for alternative education programs.
3. Attendance contracts.

The child study team may, but is not required to, implement other interventions, including referral to other agencies for family services or recommendation for filing a truancy petition pursuant to s. 984.151.

The following are criteria for withdrawal:

- No work on digital curriculum for one month.
- More than 10 unexcused absences.
- Did not satisfy attendance contract(s)
- No attempt from both student and parent/guardian to contact the school.
- Appointed school representative has been unsuccessful to contact the student parent/guardian via phone call, text, letter, and/or email.
- Other team members such as teachers, secretaries, assistant principal, and principal will make attempts to contact student/family through emails and phone.
- Email the student, parent/guardian a truancy letter with the last known address/e-mail address.
- Failed to sit for eligible Florida State Assessments