



## Truancy Collaborative FAQ's SHEET

Who should be contacted if a school aged child is in the community unsupervised during school hours?

- Dial 911 or call 404-802-3611
- Identify the location, cross street, and/or landmark where student has been observed
- Description of student(s): race, hair style/color, height, size, color shirt/jacket, glasses, etc.

What happens when a report is made?

- Truancy /Beat Officer is dispatched to the scene
- Truancy/ Beat Officer makes an assessment of the situation, then contacts Truancy Social Worker to verify APS enrollment
- If student is enrolled in Atlanta Public Schools (APS), the Truancy/Beat Officer will determine if the child is transported to school, home, local At-Promise Center, or juvenile detention center.
- If student is not enrolled in an APS school, the Truancy/Beat Officer will determine next steps.

What's the difference between truancy and chronic absence?

- Truancy refers to unexcused absences without parental knowledge or permission, while chronic absence includes all absences such as excused, unexcused, suspensions.

What are the existing Georgia laws that address attendance and truancy?

- **Georgia Compulsory Attendance Law O.C.G.A 20-2-690.1 (c)**  
Requires children between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend school, with penalties including fines and/or prison (applicable to parents) for noncompliance.
- **Georgia's new Juvenile Justice Code, O.C.G.A 15-11-2 (11) Child in Need of Services (CHINS)**  
Subject to compulsory school attendance and who is habitually and without good and sufficient cause truant, as such term is defined in Code Section 15-11-381, from school; Truant: Having ten or more days of unexcused absences from school in the current academic year
- **Atlanta City Ordinance, Sec.106-229. - Child in need of supervision**  
Any minor age six through 15 years old who loiters, wanders, strolls or plays in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places, public buildings, places of amusement, eating places, vacant lots, unsupervised by an adult having the lawful authority to be at such places, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on any school day shall be considered a child in need of supervision.

What is a truancy sweep?

- A truancy sweep is when a mobile team responds to community concerns involving school aged youth in violation **Atlanta City Ordinance 106-229** (see below). This team canvasses the area of concern to identify students, verify enrollment with Truancy Social Worker, makes an assessment of the situation, then determines appropriate next steps. Based on their findings, the student is transported to school, home, local At Promise Center or juvenile detention.

Who are the mobile team members assigned to do truancy sweeps for Atlanta Public Schools?

- The Atlanta Public Schools mobile team includes: Assigned Atlanta Police Department Truancy Officers, MARTA Juvenile Crime Prevention Team Officers and the truancy social worker. This team is called the Truancy Collaborative.

**How is it determined where a child will be transported during a Truancy Sweep?**

Findings	Next Steps
<p>Student identified and verified as enrolled in Atlanta Public Schools, and if there are other factors such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student was found in unsafe conditions</li> <li>2. Suspicion that student is a victim of abuse and/or neglect or exploitation</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Student is transported to assigned school                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Signed in by an administrator</li> <li>▪ Meet with school social worker, if needed</li> <li>▪ Parent contact initiated</li> <li>▪ Additional intervention, resources and/or supports offered as needed.</li> <li>▪ Student may be subject to school consequences (i.e., disciplinary action, truancy petition, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Student identified and verified as enrolled in Atlanta Public Schools, and if there are other factors such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student is suspended</li> <li>2. Student coded in I.C. as quarantined</li> <li>3. Student is unprepared for school (i.e., inappropriate attire/other issues that would not allow for school admittance).</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Student is transported home or parent contacted to pick up on site.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parent/guardian signs intake sheet upon drop off or parent pick up on site.</li> <li>▪ School Social Worker meeting with student/parent, if needed.</li> <li>▪ Additional intervention, resources and/or supports offered as needed.</li> <li>▪ Upon to return to school, student may be subject to school consequences (i.e., disciplinary action, truancy petitions, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Student involved in criminal activity or active pick up order by Juvenile Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Student transported to Juvenile Detention Center</li> </ul>
<p>Unable to determine child's identity, school enrollment, or child is homeless without supervision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Student transported to zone precinct to initiate appropriate next steps.</li> </ul>

**For additional information contact:**  
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