

## Guidance on Dropping a Student for Non-Attendance

The School Code restricts when a truant minor may be dropped from the enrollment roster for nonattendance. Specifically, “[A] truant minor may not be expelled for nonattendance unless he or she has accrued 15 consecutive days of absences without valid cause and the student cannot be located by the school district or the school district has located the student but cannot, after exhausting all available supportive services, compel the student to return to school.”

In the scenario you have described, the district must determine if the absences are considered excused or unexcused. If considered excused, the district should provide resources for the student to remain on pace with their peers for the duration of the time out of school, and the student may remain on the district’s enrollment roster. If deemed unexcused, and the child cannot be compelled to return to school after exhausting all available supportive services, the district can drop the child from its enrollment roster after 15 consecutive days of absences, provided the district has first provided some notification/due process. If the Regional Office of Education has not been engaged, this would call into question whether or not all supportive services have been offered, though ISBE is not the arbiter of that.

Upon the child’s return, the district must always re-enroll the child, provided they remain a resident of the district. The only exception to that would be if the child is 19 years of age or older and will not be able to graduate before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. See [105 ILCS 5/26-2\(b\)](#).