



COLORADO
Department of Education

Truant Students

2014-2015 Student October Count

Created by the Field Analyst Support Team (FAST)

October Count Truancy

- **October Count truancy occurs when a student has been enrolled and in attendance within a district prior to the pupil enrollment count day, and they are absent during the entire 11-day count period.**
- **Sometimes students are out of town for those 11 days, are sick, or are absent for other unforeseen circumstances and the district knows where they are and that they are planning returning to school. If they missed the 11-day count window, they are still considered October Count truant.**

14-15 Pupil Enrollment Count Day

For Districts on a Monday – Friday Five-Day Week

Count Day: October 1

Eleven – Day Window: Sept. 24 – Oct. 8

For Districts on a Monday – Thursday Four-Day Week

Count Day: October 1

Eleven – Day Count Window: Sept. 23 – Oct. 9

For Districts on a Tuesday – Friday Four-Day Week

Count Day: October 1

Eleven – Day Count Window: Sept. 23 – Oct. 9

For Preschool Programs using the November 1 Count Day on a Monday – Thursday Four-Day Week

Count Day: November 3

Eleven – Day Count Window: Oct. 23 – Nov. 11

For Preschool Programs using the November 1 Count Day on a Tuesday – Friday Four-Day Week

Count Day: November 4

Eleven – Day Count Window: Oct. 24 – Nov. 12

Funding Eligibility

- A truant student may be included in the funded count if the student was enrolled and in attendance during the current school year prior to the pupil enrollment count day, was truant during the entire 11-day count window, and the district has taken legal action provided in the statutes to compel the student's attendance.
- Students must be at least age 6, and under the age of 17, as of August 1 of the given year
- Legal action may include a notification to the parent(s) of intent to file with the court and direction has been given to the attorney to file, or that action by the court was requested within 10 school days following the pupil enrollment count day

Audit Documentation

For each truant student, the district should be prepared to provide:

- Current year attendance documentation prior to the pupil enrollment count day
- Truancy documentation dated within 10 school days after the pupil enrollment count day

Hints

- It is imperative that teachers are taking accurate attendance during every period of every day, within the first few minutes of class.
 - If a student is truly absent, but a teacher forgot to take attendance and the attendance defaults to 'present', that student was 'present' during that class for all intensive purposes

Truancy Example

Charlene Cherry attended school at ABC Elementary School during September of the current school year, but was out sick during the entire 11-day count window. Charlene is 7 years old. The District's count day fell on Wednesday, October 1st, and their Elementary school follows a 5 day school week. There are no days during October where school is not in session. The district's social services department obtained truancy documentation dated October 23rd to use as truancy proof for Charlene. Is Charlene eligible to be funded in the district's pupil count submission?

- A. Yes, because Charlene attended school prior the pupil enrollment count day and the district obtained adequate truancy documentation.
- B. No, because the truancy documentation is dated more than 10 school days after the pupil enrollment count day.
- C. Yes, but not using the truancy documentation. Rather, the district would need to provide proof that Charlene returned to school and was in attendance within 30 days after the pupil enrollment count day.

Truancy Example Answer

Charlene Cherry attended school at ABC Elementary School during September of the current school year, but was out sick during the entire 11-day count window. Charlene is 7 years old. The District's count day fell on Wednesday, October 1st, and their Elementary school follows a 5 day school week. There are no days during October where school is not in session. The district's social services department obtained truancy documentation dated October 23rd to use as truancy proof for Charlene. Is Charlene eligible to be funded in the district's pupil count submission?

- C. Yes, but not using the truancy documentation. Rather, the district would need to provide proof that Charlene returned to school and was in attendance within 30 days after the pupil enrollment count day.**

If Charlene returned to school within 30 calendar days after the pupil enrollment count day, the district could provide both proof of attendance prior to the count day and proof of attendance after. The truancy documentation cannot be used because it was dated more than 10 school days after the pupil enrollment count day. If Charlene did not return to school within 30 days after the pupil enrollment count day, she would not be eligible to be counted.

Questions?

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Thank you!