

Attachment A: Definitions and Terms

At Risk of Habitual Truancy – Refers to students who have unexcused absences from school, who are truant, who have been or are likely to be declared habitually truant. (C.R.S. 22-33-202)

At Risk of Suspension and Expulsion – Risk of suspension and expulsion may include discipline referrals, suspension, classroom removal, and other reasons identified in district/school policies. At-risk of expulsion does not include teen pregnancy/parenting, academic failure, family functioning issues and/or illness or mental health issues. However, these issues may contribute to behavior. **Note:** *Each school district shall adopt policies to identify students who are at risk of suspension or expulsion from school. Students identified may include those who are likely to be declared habitually disruptive.* (C.R.S. 22-33-202)

Charter Schools – "Charter school" means a charter school authorized by a school district pursuant to state law or an institute charter school authorized by the state charter school institute. (C.R.S. 22-13-102) **Note:** *If a charter school intends to apply for a grant that the school's authorizing school district is also intending to apply for, the charter school shall seek to collaborate with the school district in the application and to submit the application jointly. If the charter school and the school district are unable to agree to collaborate in applying for the grant, the charter school may apply for the grant pursuant to state law independently or in collaboration with other charter schools.* (C.R.S. 22-30.5-104(11)(c))

Compulsory School Attendance – The School Attendance Law of 1963 requires that "every child who has attained the age of six years on or before August 1 of each year and is under the age of seventeen years, shall attend public school" for at least a number of hours specified by state statute during each school year. (C.R.S. 22-33-104)

Disciplinary incidence – This includes classroom removal, office referrals, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsion. For more details see K-12 Discipline Analysis Report, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/studentdisciplineanalysis>

Dropout - In Colorado law, a dropout is defined as a person who leaves school for any reason, except death, before completion of a high school diploma or its equivalent, and who does not transfer to another public or private school or enroll in an approved home study program. Students who reach the age of 21 before receiving a diploma or designation of completion ("age-outs") are also counted as dropouts. It does not include an expelled student.

Early Intervention – Means that a student's behavior or unexcused school absences generates a service plan to improve the student's behavior and attendance and thereby prevent future disciplinary action being taken.

EARSS-eligible Students – The EARSS grant program serves students who become expelled (but served), and/or are at-risk of being expelled, and/or are truant. The grant program may also support suspended students, students at-risk of suspension because of behaviors that violate the discipline code of code of conduct, truant students who are at risk of being declared habitually truant or students who are likely to be declared habitually disruptive.

Expelled/Expulsion – Means to expel a student, on the grounds pursuant to state law, local board policy and/or codes of conduct. A student may be expelled for any period not extending beyond one year as directed by law. Statute statutes provides exceptions to this. (C.R.S. 22-33-105)

Educational Services - As defined in state statute (C.R.S. 22-33-201.5), "educational services" means any of the following types of services to provide instruction in the academic areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies: (a) Tutoring services; (b) Alternative educational programs; and (c) Career and technical education programs. **Note:** *The educational services provided shall be designed to enable the EARSS-served student to make academic progress and advance toward graduating from high school or attaining a high school equivalency diploma. Services may include transition planning to appropriate educational services following the term of expulsion.*

Facility Schools – “Approved facility school” means an educational program that is operated by a facility to provide educational services to students placed in the facility. For more detail, see website for the CDE Office of Facility Schools, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/facilityschools>. **Note:** *Facility school applicants are guided to include an emphasis on the transitioning of students between their setting and school districts so that districts may continue supporting the student to avoid future disciplinary action or, if of compulsory school age, habitually truancy.*

Family Engagement – In the context of the EARSS Grant Program, family engagement generally refers to partnering and engaging parents, guardians and/or caregivers of the EARSS-served students to support two-way communication, develop attendance/behavior plans, provide services, and support school-family decision-making.

Family Supports and Interventions – Includes services to parents/guardians/caregivers of EARSS-served students that may include, but are not limited to provisions of parenting classes, support groups, case management, family conferences, home visits), special activities, or connections to community resources.

Habitually Truant - Means a child who has attained the age of six years on or before August 1 of the year in question and is under the age of seventeen years and who has four unexcused absences from public school in any one month or ten unexcused absences from public school during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion of a child are considered excused absences in relation to habitually truancy.

Habitually Disruptive Student – Means a child who has caused a material and substantial disruption on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event three or more times during the course of a school year. Any student who is enrolled in a public school may be subject to being declared a habitually disruptive student. (C.R.S. 22-33-106)

Service Agreements – School districts may provide services through agreements with appropriate local governmental agencies and, to the extent necessary, with the managing state agencies, including but not limited to the department of human services and the department of public health and environment, with community-based nonprofit and faith-based organizations, with nonpublic, non-parochial schools, with the department of military and veterans affairs, and with public and private institutions of higher education. See **Attachment D Interagency Agreements** for statutory criteria of agreements.

Student engagement - This means a student's sense of belonging, safety, and involvement in school that leads to academic achievement, regular school attendance, and graduation. Elements of promoting student engagement include providing rigorous and relevant instruction, creating positive relationships with teachers and counselors, providing social and emotional support services for students and their families, creating partnerships with community organizations and families that foster learning outside of the classroom, and cultivating regular school attendance. (C.R.S. 22-14-102)

Suspension – Means to suspend a student, on the grounds pursuant to state law, local board policy and/or codes of conduct. A student may be suspended for not more than ten school days as directed by policy. Statute statutes provides exceptions that allows suspension for a period that shall not exceed 25 school days. (C.R.S. 22-33-105)

Truant/Truancy - School district policy provides details on what types of absences are considered excused absences. In general, truancy refers to a student who is absent without excuse by the parent/guardian or if the student leaves school or a class without permission of the teacher or administrator in charge, it will be considered to be an unexcused absence and the student shall be considered truant.

Truancy rate - The rate indicates the percent of full or partial days possible to attend that students were absent without an excuse. It is calculated by dividing the total days unexcused absent by the number of total days possible to attend. Spreadsheets of annual school-by-school truancy rates can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/truancystatistics.htm>.