

NEPN/NSBA CODE: JHB
TITLE: TRUANCY
AUGUSTA CODE/TITLE: JEDA/TRUANCY

In its 2004 session, the Legislature enacted L.D. 1082, P.L. Ch. 533, "An Act Regarding Habitual Truants." Although Augusta's policy was revised in 2005, it does not take into account these changes in law.

This Act amended Maine's truancy law, changing the definition of "habitual truant" and incorporating detailed procedures to be followed when a student is habitually truant. These provisions include interventions with students, notification of parents, transport of students to school, and enforcement through the courts.

We have replaced Augusta's existing policy with the current MSMA sample. It provides the definition of "habitual truant" as it now appears in Maine law and expands the language regarding the appointment and duties of the school unit's attendance coordinator and the procedures to be followed when a student is habitually truant.

This policy may be viewed as a companion to policies JEA (Compulsory Attendance), JEAA (Student Attendance) and JFC (Drop-out Prevention). The Board should pay particular attention to the definitions in the truancy policy and be sure that any language that is included in attendance policies and administrative procedures is consistent with the truancy policy.

Code change