



Truancy- Disciplinary Board

Purpose

Our main goal is to make sure that students are learning to the best of their ability. To learn, students must be in school and have a safe learning environment. If they are under the influence of nicotine or other vape products, they are not focused. To address the growing problem of chronic absenteeism and vaping by students, we began a new tiered intervention plan last year with programs that will connect families to the schools and can also provide needed resources to help students attend school. We will continue with those programs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Truancy Disciplinary Board

A joint venture to help our students between:

Rhea County Schools

Rhea County Sheriff's Department

Rhea County Juvenile Court

Local Community Programs

<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Janá Bice	Youth Services Officer /Juvenile Probation
Brandon Wolfe	Juvenile Probation
Halie Dennis	Juvenile Clerk
Brien Crowder	Attendance Supervisor
Micah Ruehling	District Attendance
Dawn Combs	District Attendance
Nate Gates	Juvenile Justice Reform Program
Jashay Locke	Juvenile Justice Reform Program
Elizabeth Logan	Department of Children's Services
Timothy Hostetler	U-Turn Program
Chasity Elsea	U-Turn Program
Jill Kemmer	Edge Program
Rocky Potter	Rhea County Sheriff's Department
Samantha Walker	Rhea County Juvenile Detention

Tobacco Free Schools

Rhea County School Board Policy 1.803

All uses of tobacco, electronic/battery operated devices, vapor products, and all other associated paraphernalia are prohibited in all of the school district's buildings and in all vehicles that are owned, leased, or operated by the district. Smoking and vaping shall be prohibited in any public seating areas including, but not limited to, bleachers used for sporting events or public restrooms.

Employees and students in the school district will not be permitted to use these products while they are participants in any class or activity in which they represent the school district.

Vape Offense and Consequences

<u>Consequence</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Citation filed in Juvenile Court		✓	✓
\$50 Fine		✓	✓
Suspension	1 Day	3 Days	Alt School
In-Depth Program	Student	Student & Parent	
Community Service	10 Hours	20 Hours	Up to 50 Hours
Appearance In Juvenile Court			✓

The Progressive Truancy Plan

A three-tiered approach to help families and students who are facing chronic absenteeism.

At each tier, there's a different action or support.

Tier	Unexcused Absence #	What to Expect:
<u>Tier 1</u> 0-4 UNEXCUSED Applies to all students and includes school-based incentives for good attendance.	1	
	2	
	3	Parents/guardians of students who accumulate 3 unexcused absences will be contacted via BrightArrow with a reminder of School Rules, District Policies, and State Law.
	4	
<u>Tier 2</u> 5-9 UNEXCUSED	5	A message via BrightArrow with a reminder of School Rules, District Policies, and State Law will be sent.
	6	
	7	
	8	When a student reaches eight unexcused absences, a district level meeting is set. Parent and student must meet with the Rhea County Truancy-Discipline Board at Central Office on set date and time. This meeting reiterates the importance of attending school as well as the punitive measures of Saturday School. An Attendance Contract will be completed by the student and parent. Student services from local juvenile court services will be made available, but not limited to: Juvenile Justice Reform, Department of Children's Services, and U-Turn Programs.
9		
<u>Tier 3</u> 10 UNEXCUSED	10	A petition to appear in Juvenile Court will be issued. We have partnered with Judge Jace Cochran to ensure laws written to make sure students attend school and make sure parents get them to school are followed. Efforts will be made to protect our students from any abuse situations or neglect. We need to do what is best for our students and families.

How Parents Can Help:

DOCUMENT EACH ABSENCE

- Parent Excuse—Five can be used throughout the year
- Medical
- Dental Note

CHECK-INS and CHECK-OUTS

These count too; They add up! Make sure to submit the same types of documentation for them as well.

MAKE-UP WORK

Parents should make sure to review their child's student handbook for the make-up policy of each individual school.

Driver's License

In order for a student to receive or maintain a driver's license they are required to have **PROPER ENROLLMENT STATUS** and **MAKE SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**.

-PROPER ENROLLMENT STATUS is defined as a student with less than ten (10) unexcused absences in a semester.

-MAKING SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS means that a student earns a passing grade in at least three (3) full unit subjects each semester.

*The Compulsory School Attendance form can be picked up in the attendance office.

REVOCATION

A student who has more than ten (10) consecutive or fifteen (15) unexcused absences during any semester shall be ineligible to retain a driver's permit or license.



The Juvenile Justice Reform program is a strength-based and family-driven program that supports children, youth, and families involved in the Juvenile Justice system. In the JJR program, a Family Support Specialist (FSS) and Youth and Family Therapist (YFT) meet weekly with both student and parents to help identify strength-based goals that address issues that may be contributing to your student's court involvement.

The Care
Center



UTurn

Sometimes students need a little focused attention. Our UTurn program is a small-group mentoring program that works with students that may already be experiencing negative consequences associated with unhealthy choices. Sessions last 12-weeks, meeting once a week.