

SENATE BILL 2584

By Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, Part 30, relative to truancy.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-3009, is amended by deleting subsection (d) and substituting instead the following:

(d) Progressive truancy intervention plans adopted by local boards of education pursuant to subsection (c) must be applied prior to referral to juvenile court as described in § 49-6-3007(e)(1). Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, progressive truancy intervention plans must meet the following requirements:

(1) Tier one of the progressive truancy intervention plan must include schoolwide, prevention-oriented supports;

(2) Tier two must be implemented upon a student's accumulation of unexcused absences as specified in the LEA's truancy intervention plan, and must include, at a minimum:

(A) A conference with the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the student;

(B) A resulting attendance contract to be signed by the student, the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the student, and an attendance supervisor or designee. The contract must include:

(i) A specific description of the school's attendance expectations for the student;

(ii) The period for which the contract is in effect; and

(iii) Penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court;

(C) Regularly scheduled follow-up meetings, which may be with the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the student to discuss the student's progress;

(D) An individualized assessment by a school employee of the reasons a student has been absent from school; and

(E) If necessary, referral of the child to counseling, community-based services, or other in-school or out-of-school services aimed at addressing the student's attendance problems; and

(3) Tier three must be implemented if the truancy interventions under tier two are unsuccessful. Tier three may consist of one (1) or more of the following:

(A) School-based community services;

(B) Participation in a school-based restorative justice program;

(C) Referral to a school-based teen court; or

(D) Saturday or after school courses designed to improve attendance and behavior.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.