

**(C-31) Preliminary Notice**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CHILD'S THIRD ILLEGAL ABSENCE**

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You are hereby notified, as required by law, that \_\_\_\_\_, a child in your charge, was illegally absent from school on:

SEPTEMBER	_____
OCTOBER	_____
NOVEMBER	_____
DECEMBER	_____
JANUARY	_____
FEBRUARY	_____
MARCH	_____
APRIL	_____
MAY	_____
JUNE	_____

These illegal absences are in addition to any other absences that have occurred but were excused. Illegal absences, such as those on the dates listed above, are in violation of the compulsory attendance provision of the Public School Code of Laws of Pennsylvania.

If your child is six (6) years of age or in grades 1-3 and has ten (10) or more illegal absences, you, as the parent, guardian or person in control, may be referred to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for truancy. If your child is in grades 4-12 and is under the age of seventeen (17), you may be referred to Truancy Court. If your child is referred to DHS or to Truancy Court, a DHS agency provider will be assigned to your case and will begin home visits. If the attendance does not improve or you do not participate in the voluntary services offered by the DHS provider, your case may be referred to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

You are encouraged to contact your school's attendance designee to discuss ways to improve your child's attendance: *School Attendance Designee:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Telephone:* \_\_\_\_\_

For your information, portions of Sections 1326, 1327, 1330, 1333 and 1394 of the school law are printed upon the reverse side of this notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**OFFICIAL SERVING NOTICE**

**EXTRACT FROM ACT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
(Act of March 10, 1949, P. L. 30)

Section 1326-27. The term “compulsory school age,” as hereinafter used, shall mean the period of a child’s life from the time the child’s parents elect to have the child enter school, which shall be not later than at the age of eight (8) years, until the age of seventeen (17) years. Every child of compulsory school age having a legal residence in this Commonwealth as provided in this article, and every migratory child of compulsory school age, is required to attend a day school in which the subjects and activities prescribed by the State Board of Education are taught in the English language. Every parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of any child or children of compulsory school age is required to send such child or children to a day school in which the subjects and activities prescribed by the State Board of Education are taught in the English language. Such child or children shall attend such school continuously through the entire term, during which the public schools in their respective districts shall be in session.

In 2008, Pennsylvania legislature passed a law that allows the School District of Philadelphia (as a first class district) to lower the compulsory school age to six (6). In December 2008, the School Reform Commission passed Policy 201 which states that the compulsory age of District students is age six (6) on or before September 1, with the exception of students that are home schooled where the compulsory school age is eight (8) years.

Section 1333. Every parent, guardian, or person in parental relation, having control or charge of any child or children of compulsory school age, who shall fail to comply with the provisions of this act regarding compulsory attendance, shall on summary conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine, for the benefit of the school district in which such offending person resides, not exceeding three hundred dollars (\$300) and pay court costs or be sentenced to complete a parenting education program offered and operated by a local school district, medical institution or other community resources, and, in default of the payment of such fine and costs or completion of the parenting program by the person so offending, shall be sentenced to the county jail for a period not exceeding five (5) days. In lieu of or in addition to any other sentence imposed under this section, the district justice may order the parent, guardian or person in parental relation to perform community service in the school district in which the offending child resides for a period not to exceed six (6) months.

Any child...who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance provisions of this act and is habitually truant...may be referred by the school district for services or possible disposition as a dependent child as defined under 42 Pa.C.S. § 6302.

Section 1330. The provisions of this act requiring regular attendance shall not apply to any child who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years, and who holds an employment certificate issued according to law.

Section 1394. Any person or persons accepting service from, or engaging or employing, any child between eight (8) and eighteen (18) years of age while the public schools are in session, without having on file for such child an employment certificate...shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall for a first offense be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than ten dollars (\$10) or more than twenty-five dollars (\$25), or to undergo imprisonment in the county jail for ten (10) days, or both, at the discretion of the court, and for a subsequent offense shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than twenty dollars (\$20) or more than fifty dollars (\$50), or to undergo imprisonment in the county jail for ninety (90) days, or both, at the discretion of the court.