

Tuancy Prevention Policy:

Each Absence	Phone Call Home
3 Unexcused Absences	Letter Mailed Home requesting parent to call and Schedule a School Attendance Improvement Conference in order to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan *Student is considered truant.
6 Unexcused Absences	Letter Mailed Home informing parents that their child will be referred to the DA's office if attendance does not improve as per the conditions of their Attendance Improvement Plan *Student is considered habitually truant.
10 Unexcused Absences	Child is referred to the District Attorney's Office "Project Go" Program

Inquiry Charter School is dedicated to the academic, social and emotional success of all students. Regular school attendance is an integral part of this success. In an effort to enforce Pennsylvania's compulsory attendance laws, Inquiry Charter School partners with the District Attorney's office. By signing the attached handbook acknowledgement form, you are giving your consent for Inquiry Charter School to share your child's educational records with the District Attorney's office in the event your child has excessive unexcused absences. Please note that records from previous years will be included in any referral.

If you object to your child's information being shared with the District Attorney's office, please write a letter to the school stating your objection within 10 days of enrollment. Letters can either be mailed to the school's address or delivered to the Main Office. If we do not hear from you, we will assume consent has been given and will release your contact information if your child violates our school's truancy policy.

Please know that the partnership we have entered into with the District Attorney's office has been entered into with the very best of intentions for all of our students and their families.

"Project Go" Partnership with the District Attorney's Office:

As part of our truancy prevention program, students with 10 or more unexcused absences may be referred to "Project Go", which is an early intervention and prevention program developed by the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office to hold parents and excessively truant elementary and middle school students accountable for truancy.

By law, all children are required to attend school daily until they turn 17. Participating schools notify the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office when a student has exceeded the number of unexcused absences agreed to as the limit for their school. From there, a letter is sent from the District Attorney's Office to the student's parents/guardians advising them of their responsibilities under Pennsylvania law. Students and their parents/guardians are required to attend a group meeting with the Assistant District Attorney, school staff, city agencies and community-based organizations. Parents/guardians are advised that continued attendance problems will not be tolerated and could result in court action them and/or their child. At the same time, referrals are provided for parenting classes, counseling and other needed services.

If the letter and group meeting are not successful in improving attendance, the student and their parents/guardians are invited to an individual meeting with the Assistant District Attorney and school staff to discuss the child's attendance problems. This meeting focuses on:

- Attendance problems
- Family issues/concerns
- School related issues/concerns
- Legal consequences
- Agency referrals for needed services
- Signed contract outlining responsibilities

If the individual meeting is not successful, the student their parents/guardians are referred to a final meeting with the Assistant District Attorney, school staff and other appropriate representatives. The message is reiterated for the final time.

Failure to improve thereafter results in prosecution of the parents/guardians for Corruption of a Minor, 18 Pa.C.S. §6301(a)(2), a violation of the Public School Code, 24 P.S. §13-1333, and/or, in a particularly egregious case, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, 18 Pa.C.S. §4304. Similarly, a child 13 or older could be prosecuted for a violation of the Public School code (24 P.S. §13-1300, et seq); a child under 13 would be referred to the Department of Human Services as a dependent child.