

JUVENILE PROCEDURES

SCHOOL TRUANCY

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for enforcing school truancy.

Policy Statement: Pursuant to Act 876 of 1989, the North Little Rock Police Department, in agreement with the North Little Rock School District, shall detain and question suspected truants during school hours on those days that the North Little Rock schools are in session and transport truants as circumstances require. [CALEA 44.1.1]

Summary of Changes:

1 Procedures:

- 1.1 Between the hours of 0900 and 1400, officers observing what appears to be a high school or below age student should stop the person and determine if the person's absence from school is authorized.
 - 1.1.1 All North Little Rock students who are on school business and work study programs will be issued a pass authorizing the student's absence from school.
 - 1.1.2 Students who are authorized to go home for lunch will also possess a pass.
- 1.2 Officers should ascertain the school that the suspected truant attends. This can be determined by contacting any SRO at any school who can access the necessary records to determine proper placement, verify absences and provide guardian information.
- 1.3 Students that have been verified as truant shall be transported to the school he/she is attending.
 - 1.3.1 If the school has an SRO on duty, the officer shall deliver the student to the SRO along with a completed Truancy Form, including the incident number, and signed by the receiving school official.
 - 1.3.2 If the school does not have an assigned SRO, the officer shall deliver the student to a school administrator with a completed Truancy Form, including the incident number, and signed by the receiving school official.
 - 1.3.3 Officers shall leave a copy of the Truancy Form with the SRO or school official and submit the original for record keeping.
- 1.4 Suspected truants having their own transportation at the time of apprehension shall be allowed to drive to the school location with the officer following, provided proper identification of student has been made.
 - 1.4.1 If the suspected truant fails to proceed to the school, the suspect's identity should be provided to the school principal's office. The school officials will then conduct the necessary follow up.
- 1.5 If a student is determined to be truant while serving a school suspension of 1 to 4 days, the student will be transported to their school as per section 1.3 of this policy.
- 1.6 If a student is determined to be truant while serving a school suspension of 5 or more days, the student will be transported to the Alternative School and released pursuant to Section 1.3 of this policy.
- 1.7 If a student is determined to be truant while serving home suspension, the officer shall complete a Truancy Form and advise the appropriate SRO that the student will be transported to school; the student will be released to the SRO. The SRO and school administration will determine the next appropriate course of action.
- 1.8 Officers should use their professional experience and good judgment in determining if the stopped person is a suspected truant.

2 Other School Districts

- 2.1 Officers coming into contact with suspected truants from other school districts should attempt to contact the student's parents or guardian and the school the student attends.
 - 2.1.1 The student's parents or guardian will be responsible for transporting the student to the appropriate school.
 - 2.1.2 Students will not be transported to a NLR school.
 - 2.1.3 If a student's parents or guardian cannot be reached, the student will be released.

Patrick Thessing
Chief of Police