



Illinois State Board of Education Wellness Department

Frequently Asked Questions Public Act 102-0321

This document is intended to provide non-regulatory guidance on the subject matter listed above. For specific questions, please contact the Illinois State Board of Education.

**Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, State Superintendent
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Frequently Asked Questions Public Act 102-0321

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A. [Public Act 102-0321](#)

Public Act 102-0321 (Senate Bill 1577) amends the compulsory attendance article of the School Code by allowing students to take up to five mental or behavioral health days per year. A student is not required to provide a medical note and must be given the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed during such absences. Following the second mental health day, a student may be referred to the appropriate school personnel.

A-1: What is the purpose of PA 102-0321?

The purpose of PA 102-0321 is to expand upon the range of exemptions for school attendance to include mental or behavioral health days as excused absences.

A-2: What is the effective date of the Act?

Public Act 102-0321 will become effective January 1, 2022.

A-3: Will there be a new code in the Student Information System (SIS) for attendance purposes?

For the 2021-22 school year, there will be no changes to SIS for reporting purposes. Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, guidance will be provided on how to appropriately code mental health days in SIS.

A-4: Are schools required to refer students to the appropriate school support personnel after the second mental health day is used?

A school may refer students to appropriate school personnel after the second mental health day, though this is not a requirement of PA 102-0321.

A-5: Who is considered to be appropriate school support personnel?

Appropriate school support personnel are those defined by Illinois School Code, [105 ILCS 5/21B-25](#). Requirements for school support personnel are defined in Illinois Administrative Code, [Part 25, reference Subtitle A, Subchapter b, Subpart D: School Support Personnel](#).

A-6: Will this impact chronic absenteeism?

Yes, "chronic absence" means absences that total 10% or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause ... – 105 ILCS 5/26-18.

A-7: Will the 2021-22 school year days be prorated as a result of the effective date of the Act?

Days will not be prorated. Each student will be allowed to have up to five excused mental or behavioral health days to use during the 2021-22 school year.

A-8: What impact will mental health days have on truancy?

Mental health days are not counted as unexcused absences; therefore, they will not impact truancy.

If you have other questions, please email Candace Decker at cdecker@isbe.net.