

ORDINANCE NO. 2001-08-089

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE  
CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS PROHIBITING TRUANCE

WHEREAS, regular attendance at school, unless validly excused, is essential to the learning and growth of Urbana's youth; and

WHEREAS, currently available resources and methods of combating truancy are often inadequate to compel attendance at school; and

WHEREAS, school administrators and parents of truant students at times require more effective tools for compelling student attendance at school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the following be adopted as Section \_\_\_\_ of Article \_\_\_\_ of the Urbana City Code:

"Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Truancy prohibited.

- (a) No person under the age of eighteen years (18) and enrolled in any public, private, or parochial school (hereafter referred to as a "student") shall be absent from attending school during the school day or any portion thereof without the permission of a parent or guardian granted before the absence. In the case of any unpermitted absence for valid cause, the absence shall not constitute truancy if a parent or guardian submits written permission for the absence to a designated school official on the next school day following the absence. The term 'valid cause' shall mean an absence for illness, observance of a religious holiday, death of a loved one or

family emergency, and shall include such other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the board of education of the school district, or such other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of the student.

- (b) If a student has five (5) unexcused days or portions of a day in a school year, the student's parents or the school authorities may notify the juvenile officer of the absences and any information they deem pertinent to the student's absences.
  
- (c) The juvenile officer, upon receiving such a report, shall attempt to contact the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian, and shall issue a warning to both the student and the parent(s) or guardian in substantially the form set forth below, ordering the student to attend without unexcused absences:

(You)(your child) \_\_\_\_\_ has/have been absent from school, unexcused more than five (5) days or portions of days. Any unexcused absence violates City of Urbana ordinances. I am ordering (you)(your child) to attend school with no additional unexcused absence for any day or any portion of a day in this school year. If (you are)(your child is) absent unexcused on one additional occasion, the juvenile

officer of the Urbana Police Department will issue a Notice to Appear in court, requiring (you)(your child) to come into court and appear before a judge of this Circuit to answer for violating the ordinance. A finding of guilty could involve a fine of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per violation, assignment to perform public service work, and a period of court supervision.

- (d) If the student is again absent unexcused on any day or portion of a day in that school year, after having received the warning, the juvenile officer shall issue a notice requiring the student to appear in court on a charge of violating this ordinance."

Section 2. The general penalty provisions of Section 1-10 of the Code of Ordinances apply to violations of this section.

Section 3. That this Ordinance shall be valid after ten days (10) from its date of passage by the Urbana City Council.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

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Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

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Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor