

Supt. C. L. Emerick,

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In the hope that these comments on the present situation in regard to enforcing the attendance law will help in some small way to clear up the present confusion, we submit them to you.

I think we should report all absences to Mrs. Cady adding reason for the absence. All schools should do the same.

Have a countywide rule concerning the absence of children. Children should be allowed to have an excused absence for educational trips if the absence does not exceed five days.

The parents feel that the policy in regard to excused absences is not the same in all schools of the county. Sometimes the parents feel that the teachers are not fair in reporting the children. For a few years no child was excused except for sickness. This year the children have been excused for many reasons. Has the law changed? Originally it was supposed to have teeth. Can we tell our parents one thing one year and another the next?

I do not like the setup in the county this year in regard to compulsory attendance. Last year's was better. Why excuse a child for Apple Blossom Festival and not for field trials and horse shows. Why say that one is educational and the other is not? A child interested in horses or dogs would get more out of a show and the Apple Blossom Festival. A parent interested in education is going to see that her child gets an all around education - whether in school or on educational trips. We don't have to force those parents. Whom should we report and whom should we not report?

1. Teachers must secure excuses for each absence.
2. Teacher must follow up and report to principal all questionable cases.
3. Questionable cases to be :
 - a. where parents seem not to care about child's education,
 - b. where pupil is out to work for himself his parent , his friend, or for money,
 - c. run away cases- real truancy or pretended sickness of noticeable character.
 - d. any other such type of absence.
4. But in cases where:
 - a. a child attends place or affair of general educational value,
 - b. child attends meeting of general family interest
 - c. Sickness- his own(of family for short absence)
 - d. any other absence with explained reasonable need,the child should be excused , if privilege not taken advantage of, in the judgment of teacher and principal.
5. Only questionable case to be sent to county office with case history.

The idea of putting articles in the papers stressing the strictness with which this attendance law was to be enforced and then three years later^{to} arrive at the present status of enforcement gives the public all it needs to criticize the school people as being inconsistent, unreasonable, and in a very confused state of thinking ^{on} ~~the~~ school policies. Leaving the enforcement of such a law to about one hundred and fifty teachers naturally gives you that many variations in enforcement. All absences must , it seems to me, go into some central authority where enforcement will be consistent, regular, and effective.

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