



School Attendance and the Effects on Driver Licenses

Florida Association of School Social
Workers Conference
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Policies and Procedures for Program Implementation

- DOE is responsible for policies and procedures
- DOE policies and procedures are listed in the Technical Assistance Paper (TAP)-
www.firn.edu/doe/commhome/tap-home.htm
- Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) functions in a regulatory capacity

When Are Students Reported by School Districts?

- All students between 14 and 18 years of age who accumulate 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days
- Students withdrawn from school with any withdrawal code calculated in the dropout rate

Withdrawal Codes Calculated in Dropout Rate

- **DNE: Did Not Enter**
- **WO5: Over age of 16 leaving school voluntarily with no intention of returning**
- **W13: Withdrawn due to court action**
- **W15: Withdrawn due to non-attendance**
- **W18: Withdrawn for medical reasons**
- **W21: Expelled**
- **W22: Whereabouts unknown**
- **W23: Withdrawn for any reason other than WO1-W22 or W24-27**

School District Responsibilities

- **Transmit student data to Northwest Regional Data Center**
- **Transmit hardship waiver requests and their outcome**
- **Transmit a cancellation code for licensed students who should have not been reported (transmission must occur within 20 days from date of Notice of Intent to Suspend)**

School District Responsibilities (con't.)

- **Complete reinstatement form (HSMV 72870) after 30 consecutive days of attendance with no unexcused absences**
- **Complete reinstatement form (HSMV 72871) after 30 days of enrollment for students in home education**
- **Complete status letter for students who should not have been reported**

DHSMV Responsibilities After Students Reported

- Licensed students are sent a Notice of Intent to Suspend their driving privilege
- Unlicensed students are notified of ineligibility to apply for a learner's permit
- Students are provided with the school district and public school where non-compliance with school attendance occurred

DHSMV Responsibilities after Students Reported (con't.)

- Licensed students are mailed an Order of Suspension 20 days from date of Notice of Intent to Suspend letter
- Reinstate driving privilege for licensed students with a current reinstatement form, diploma or status letter
- Allow unlicensed students to apply for a learner's permit with a current reinstatement form, diploma or status letter

Eligibility Requirements for Driving Privilege/Apply for Licensure

A minor is not eligible for driving privilege or to apply for licensure unless that minor:

- Is enrolled in public school, non-public school, home education program, or GED program and satisfies attendance requirements**
- Has received high school diploma, GED, special diploma or certificate of completion**

Eligibility Requirements for Driving Privilege/Apply for Licensure (con't.)

- Is enrolled in other educational activities approved by the district school board and satisfies relevant attendance requirements
- Has been issued a certificate of exemption by school superintendent, or
- Issued a hardship waiver

Reinstatement Requirements

- 30 days of attendance with no unexcused absences for public schools and non-public schools
- Six consecutive weeks of attendance with no unexcused absences for GED programs, vocational schools or adult education
- Proof of enrollment/registration is not acceptable for reinstatement

Reinstatement Requirements (con't.)

- **High School Diploma or GED**
- **Student turns 18 years old**
- **Home education students must be enrolled 30 days (attendance is not applicable)**

Guidelines for Reinstatement

- **Count begins first day after last unexcused absence**
- **Count starts over for an unexcused absence**
- **Count is extended for excused absences**
- **Each school district defines unexcused and excused absences**
- **30 consecutive days can be linked from one semester to another to include summer school**

Reinstatement Forms

- School seal or notarized signature is required
- School seals should be lightly shaded with pencil before faxing form to DHSMV
- Forms may be used to verify graduation when a diploma is not available
- Forms cannot be used for students who should not have been reported
- Forms must be taken to local driver licenses office when driving privilege is suspended

Educational Settings Used to Satisfy Attendance Requirements

- Middle and High schools
- Adult schools
- Community Colleges
- Vocational programs
- Non-public/Private schools
- Job Corps
- Out-of-state schools
- Out-of-country schools

Status Letters

A status letter is for students who should not have been reported to DHSMV

- **School listed on Notice of Intent to Suspend is responsible for status letter**
- **Must be on public school letterhead**
- **Letter must state student should not have been reported**
- **Information to include is name, date of birth and social security number (if available)**
- **Signed by principal or designee**

Issues Affecting Reinstatement

- Name on form is not legible and/or sufficient
- No date of birth
- Name spelled incorrectly
- Print screens with student demographic information are unacceptable
- Report cards are unacceptable
- Letters indicating enrollment/registration/attendance are unacceptable

Issues Affecting Reinstatement (con't.)

- **Withdrawal/transfer forms are unacceptable**
- **Date of compliance on reinstatement form must be current**
- **Student must have been in compliance 30 days immediately prior to request for verification of compliance**

Hardship Waiver Hearings

- Licensed minors are eligible to apply for a hearing
- Hearings must be requested within 15 calendar days of receipt of Notice
- District transmits request for hearing within 20 calendar days of Notice
- Hearings cannot be denied for licensed minors
- Schools conduct hearing within 30 calendar days of request and transmit outcome to DHSMV

Employment Hardship Waivers

- An employment hardship is based on verification of need. Factor to consider is the extent a student provides substantial financial contribution for his/her livelihood or his/her family's needs, relevant to basic necessities (i.e., food and shelter) provided for the household in which he/she resides.

Medical Hardship Waivers

- A hardship for medical care is based on the need for transportation for the student or his/her immediate family members living in the same household to access required treatment. Consideration should be given to other licensed drivers residing in the household.

Guidelines for Approval of Hardship Waivers

- **Driving to and from work to make car payments and pay insurance is not justification for a hardship**
- **Teen pregnancy does not always justify an automatic approval of waiver**
- **Waivers can be limited to a specified period of time**

Home Education

- Students must be enrolled 30 school days before reinstatement form (HSMV 72871) can be issued
- Students who reinstate and fail to comply with home education requirements are eligible to be reported again for non-compliance
- Students enrolled in an out-of-state correspondence school must be registered in a Florida school district home education program

***What's New With the
School
Attendance/Driver
Licenses Program?***

Florida Virtual School

- Full-time students must be enrolled in school district or a non-public/private school recognized by Department of Education
- Students needing less than a full-time course load during one semester to graduate, may use FLVS to reinstate.

Florida Virtual School

- On-line requirements are determined by school districts
- Reinstatement form (HSMV 72870) is issued when student has completed the requisite hours for six consecutive weeks

Recurring Issues

- Schools changing withdrawal codes calculated in dropout rate to WO2, WO3 or WO4 and not notifying DHSMV
- Reinstatement forms issued with a compliance date prior to the date of the Notice of Intent to Suspend/Withhold Eligibility for Licensure letter

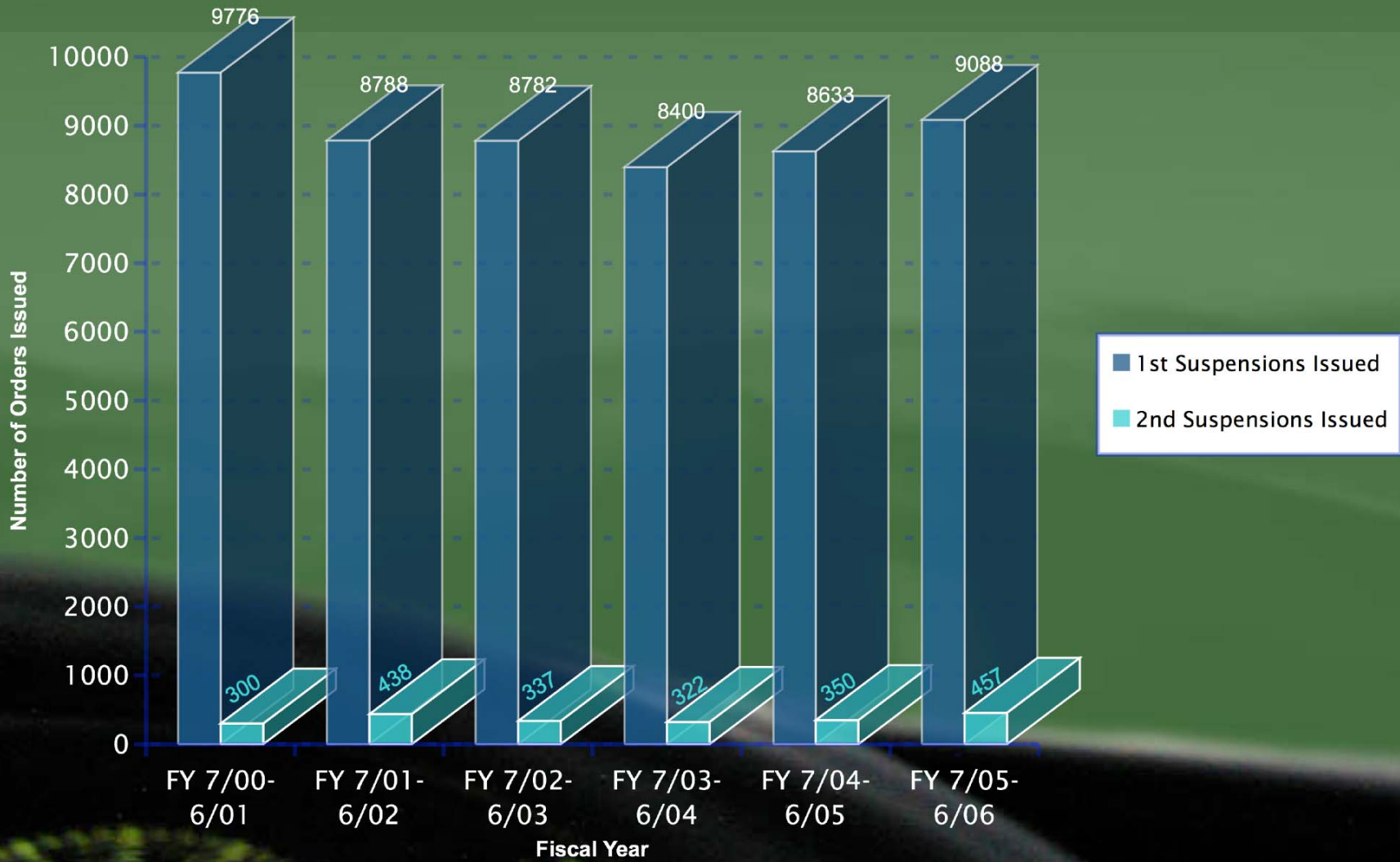
Recurring Issues

- Reinstatement forms improperly issued can adversely affect auto insurance
 - Policies may be cancelled
 - Rate increases may occur
- Private schools cannot issue status letters
- Students assigned a withdrawal code of W26 to attend adult school and fail to enroll and attend must be reported to DHSMV



***What is the Impact of the
School Attendance/Driver
Licenses?***

Suspension Orders Issued For Non-Compliance with School Attendance



Attachments



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