



Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Law and Order Code Committee

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Community Members

FROM: Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Law and Order Code Committee *MLJ*

SUBJECT: Proposed Truancy Ordinance Amendments

DATE: Wednesday, July 28, 2021

In response to the Nation's understanding and belief that school attendance is essential for the continued health and welfare of the Nation, the Law and Order Code Committee is recommending revisions to the existing Truancy Ordinance and seeks comments from the community.

Purposes of the Recommended Revisions:

1. **Improved readability of Ordinance:** In response to concerns that the Ordinance was confusing and subject to interpretation, sections of the proposed Ordinance have been moved around to make it a more "reader friendly" format and provide clarity.
2. **Diversion program focused on family assistance and accountability:** In response to concerns that the existing diversion program is primarily punitive and not constructive, the diversion program has been revamped to focus on identifying individualized barriers to attendance, involving both parents and students in addressing solutions to those barriers and, only as a last resort, seeking enforcement through fines and court interventions.
3. **Fairness to all families who reside within FMYN:** In response to concerns that the Ordinance was not consistently enforced between tribal members and non-tribal members, the revisions seek to better insure informal and formal interventions and enforcement is as consistent as possible for all community members subject to the Ordinance.
4. **Allows the Education Department to fulfill its monitoring and reporting obligations to the Nation:** The Education Department is charged with the responsibility of monitoring attendance of all students within the Nation and, as a result, requires the continuation of mandatory disclosures of information. Additionally, in response to concerns from families about the scope and use of the information provided through disclosures, the revisions seek to clarify the scope and purpose of the disclosure and maintain confidentiality to the extent possible.