

JH - STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Category P

Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy

Absences

The Board requires that school-aged children enrolled in the District attend school in accordance with all applicable state laws and Board policies. The educational program offered by the District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the District during the days and hours that school is in session, except that the Principal may excuse a student for temporary absences when receiving satisfactory evidence of conditions or reasons that may reasonably cause the student's absence. The Board considers the following to be excused absences:

1. Illness
2. Recovery from an accident
3. Medical and dental appointments
4. Death in immediate family
5. Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
6. Such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Principal or permitted by law

Any absence that has not been excused for any of these reasons will be considered an unexcused absence. In the event of an illness, parents must call the school and inform the District of the student's illness and absence. For other absences, parents must provide verbal notice or a written excuse that states one of these reasons for non-attendance.

Family Vacations / Educational Opportunities

The Principal or his / her designee may grant approval of absence for family vacations, provided written approval is given in advance. Parents are asked to write a note to their child's teacher at least two weeks before the trip. This advance planning will allow the teacher enough time to work with parents and the student regarding homework completion.

Truancy

Truancy is defined as any unexcused absence from class or school. Any absence that has not been excused for any of the reasons listed above will be considered an unexcused absence. Ten half-days of unexcused absence during a school year constitutes habitual truancy. A half-day absence is defined as a student missing more than two hours of time and less than three and one-half hours of time. Any absence of more than three and one-half hours of time shall be considered a full-day absence.

When the Principal identifies a student who is habitually truant or who is in danger of becoming habitually truant, he / she shall commence an intervention with the student, the student's parents, and other staff members as may be deemed necessary.

Parental Notification of Truancy Policy

The Superintendent shall ensure that this policy is included in or referenced in the student handbook and is made available to parents annually at the beginning of each school year.

Legal References:

RSA 189:34, Appointment RSA

189:35-a, Truancy Defined

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

RSA 193:7 Penalty

RSA 193:8, Notice Requirements

RSA 193:16 ByLaws as to Nonattendance

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (a)(1), Attendance and Absenteeism

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (c), Policy Relative to Attendance and Absenteeism

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