

~~STUDENT ABSENCES EXCUSED~~ **CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY**

~~Regular attendance by students is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students will attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.~~

~~Student absences approved by the principal are excused absences. Excused absences will count as days in attendance for purposes of the truancy law. These absences include, but are not limited to, illness, family emergencies, recognized religious observances, appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day and school sponsored or approved activities.~~

~~The district believes that traditional, in-person school attendance leads to the greatest learning opportunities for students. However, there may be rare and unusual circumstances created by public emergencies declared by state or local officials which temporarily prevent students from attending traditional, in-person school. In these circumstances, the superintendent will have discretion to make reasonable accommodations for students, on a case-by-case basis, to attend school through remote learning opportunities within the available resources of the district and as permitted by law. During approved remote learning, attendance will be taken, assessments may be administered, and grades will count towards students' cumulative grade point average as if they were attending in person. The provision of special education and accommodations for students who have individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans will be determined by each respective IEP or Section 504 team.~~

~~Students whose absences are approved will make up the work missed and receive full credit for the missed school work. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate a procedure with the student's teacher to complete the work missed.~~

~~Students who wish to participate in school sponsored activities must attend school the full day the day of the activity unless permission has been given by the principal for the student to be absent.~~

~~It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the student's attendance center as soon as the parent knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The principal may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence.~~

~~It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.~~

The district believes that traditional, in-person school attendance leads to the greatest learning opportunities for students. Students who are present in school and engaged active learners take greater ownership over their educational outcomes. For this reason, it is the priority of the district to foster regular student attendance throughout the school year and reduce barriers to regular attendance for students in the district.

Chronic absenteeism/absences means any absence from school for more than ten percent of the 177 days in the semester established by the district.

Truant/truancy means a child of compulsory attendance age who is absent from school for any reason for at least twenty percent of the 177 days in the semester. Truancy does not apply to the following students who:

- *have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or has obtained a high school equivalency diploma;*

- *are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;*
- *are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;*
- *are attending a private college preparatory school accredited or probationally accredited;*
- *are excused under Iowa Code §299.22; and*
- *are exempt under Iowa Code §299.24.*

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It is within the discretion of the principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy. Students receiving special education services will not be assigned to in-school suspension unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the designated school officials, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations will indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. sec. 300
 28 C.F.R. Pt. 35
 Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299.
 281 I.A.C. 12.3(4).

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance
 503 Student Discipline
 504 Student Activities
 506 Student Records

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