

I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.
- B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher, and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**A. Responsibilities****1. Student's Responsibility**

It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

3. Teacher's Responsibility

It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain Accurate attendance records in each assigned class and study hall. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. It is also the teacher's responsibility to

provide any student who has been absent with any missed assignments upon request. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

4. Administrator's Responsibility

- A. It is the administrator's responsibility to require students to attend all assigned classes and study halls. It is also the administrator's responsibility for knowing the procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students. The administrator assures maintenance of accurate records on student attendance, and the preparation of a list of the previous day's absences stating the status of each. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.
- B. In accordance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law, Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22, the students of the school district are REQUIRED to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the school board from attendance because the student has already completed state and school district standards required to graduate from high school, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

B. Attendance Procedures

Attendance procedures are approved administratively and the attendance procedures will be included in student handbooks.

1. Excused Absences

- a. The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:
 - (1) that the child's physical or mental health is such as to prevent attendance at school or application to study for the period required, which includes:

- (2) child illness, medical, dental, orthodontic, or counseling appointments; including appointments conducted through telehealth;
- (3) family emergencies;
- (4) the death or serious illness or funeral of an immediate family member;
- (5) active duty in any military branch of the United States;
- (6) the child has a condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis; or
- (7) other exemptions included in this attendance policy.
- (8) that the child has already completed state and district standards required for graduation from high school; or
- (9) that it is the wish of the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child, that the child attend for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three hours in any week, instruction conducted by a Tribal spiritual or cultural advisor, or a school for religious instruction conducted and maintained by a church, or association of churches, or any Sunday school association incorporated under the laws of this state, or any auxiliary thereof. This instruction must be conducted and maintained in a place other than a public school building, and it must not, in whole or in part, be conducted and maintained at public expense. A child may be absent from school on days that the child attends upon instruction according to this clause.
- (10) Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension.

- (11) Family vacation (limited to 5 days per year) handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work.
- (12) Official school field trip or other school-sponsored outing.
- (13) Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- (14) Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.

b. Excused Absence Procedures

- (1) A parent, guardian, or other person having control of a child may apply to a school district to have the child excused from attendance for the whole or any part of the time school is in session during any school year. Application may be made to an administrator or **school official designated by the principal.** ~~the superintendent.~~ A note from a physician or a licensed mental health professional stating that the child cannot attend school is a valid excuse.

In order for an absence to be excused, a parent needs to call the school attendance line prior to, or the day of the absence. The parent needs to state when the child will be absent and explain the reason for the absence. The school or school district may require the student's parent or legal guardian to verify, in writing the reason for the student's absence from school.

The board of the district in which the child resides may approve the application under subparagraph (a) above upon a legitimate exception being demonstrated to the satisfaction of that board.

- (2) Students whose absences are excused are required to make up assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.
- (3) The student handbook provides guidance on steps that should be taken if a student has missed assignments due to absences.

2. Unexcused Absences

A. The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

- (1) Truancy. An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the school district.
- (2) Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the school district's attendance procedures.
- (3) Work at home.
- (4) Work at a business, except under a school-sponsored work release program.
- (5) Vacations with family without prior notice and exceeding 5 days.
- (6) Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy.

B. Unexcused Absence Procedures

- (1) Absences resulting from official suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.40-121A.56.
- (2) Days during which a student is suspended from school shall not be counted in a student's total cumulated unexcused absences.
- (3) School district staff will work with the parent/guardian, student and the Hennepin County Attorney's office be@school process, the Hennepin County Attorney's office will follow with necessary legal action to ensure attendance at school.
- (4) If unexcused absences continue after following the be@school process, the Hennepin County Attorney's office will follow with necessary legal action to ensure attendance at school.

- (5) Along with following the Hennepin County Attorney's be@school programs, the student or his or her parent/guardian may, within a reasonable time, request a conference with school officials regarding the student's absences and the prescribed discipline. The notification will state that the school strongly urges the student's parent/guardian to request such a conference.

C. Tardiness

1. Definition: Students are expected to be in their assigned area at the start of school or the start of class. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.
2. Tardiness Information: The procedures for reporting tardiness, as well as additional information, is found in the student handbooks.

D. Participation in Extracurricular Activities and School-Sponsored On-the-Job Training Programs:

1. This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled either during or outside the school day and any school- sponsored on-the-job training programs.
2. School-initiated absences will be accepted and participation permitted.
3. A student may not participate in any activity or program if he or she has an unexcused absence from any class during the day.
4. If a student is suspended from any class, he or she may not participate in any activity or program that day.
5. If a student is absent from school due to medical reasons, he or she must present a physician's statement or a statement from the student's parent or guardian clearing the student for participation that day. The note must be presented to the coach or advisor before the student participates in the activity or program.

6. Students who will miss school regularly due to enrichment activities must seek prior approval in order for those absences to be excused. Families to whom this applies may contact the building principal for further information.

III. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable efforts will be made by the school district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the building principal.

IV. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

1. Copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year through the Student Handbook. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.
2. The school district will provide annual notice to parents of the school district's policy relating to a student's absence from school for religious observance.

V. REQUIRED REPORTING

A. Continuing Truant

Minnesota Statutes section 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three (3) days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three (3) days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

B. Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing "truant," Minnesota Statutes 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minnesota Statutes section 120A.34.
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minnesota Statutes section 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the child's enrolling or resident district.
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the student's truancy.
7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 260C.201; and
9. That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the child to school and attend classes with the child for one day.

C. Habitual Truant

1. A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

2. A school district attendance officer shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent and legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minnesota Statute Chapter 260A.

VI. ONLINE LEARNING ATTENDANCE

A. Attendance

1. Attendance in online courses will be defined as active engagement in weekly coursework that makes progress toward completing all course requirements.
 - a. The following expectations define active engagement and making progress:
 - i. Students will complete 85% of the assigned work each week.
 - ii. Students will make progress at a rate that ensures that they will complete the course by the course end date.
 - iii. Students will spend, on average, ten (10) to fifteen (15) hours per week engaged in coursework. The minimum expectation is seven (7) hours per week.
 - b. Students will complete work that is their own, in accordance with Eden Prairie High Schools Handbook: Academic Integrity Policy.
 - i. Students that violate this policy will not receive credit or attendance for the submitted work.
2. Students will review, revise and resubmit work that has been returned to the student when it does not meet the assignment requirements.
3. Students will engage in timely and appropriate communication with the course instructor. This could be done in a variety of forms: email, messaging through the LMS, phone calls, visiting during office hours, other forms determined by the course instructor that has been clearly listed in a syllabus. Students will be held to the same communication requirements as the course instructor.
4. Students who are unable to login during the course week will need a parent or guardian to contact the course instructor to make them aware of illness or other personal or family emergencies.

B. Truancy

1. Students will be considered truant from school in accordance to the Truancy Policy listed in Section IV: Required Reporting.

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