

The Board of Trustees of the Minidoka County Joint School District #331 is determined that students attend school in a manner consistent with society's work place expectations. Students should be in attendance whenever school is scheduled. Students who fail to attend are denied the opportunity to experience learning opportunities and the effectiveness of the teacher's presentation is diminished. Learning is the "job of all students". Each student is expected to reach his/her maximum potential in this endeavor. Therefore, students must develop the attitudes and work habits to assist them while attending school, as well as in the work place.

Each school will develop appropriate procedures to implement this policy, as well as to promote attendance for academic excellence.

Definitions:

Excused absences will include:

- funerals
- absence with a doctor's note
- court/counseling with note
- school activities
- snow/flood/weather conditions
- voluntary staff excused and sporting events

Students shall be counted as absent on a period by period basis unless they are excused as listed above.

These absences will NOT count against towards the State's 90% attendance requirement.

~~Excused absences are illnesses as verified by parents or a physician as per the school's handbook and pre-excused absences and emergencies as approved by the principal or designee. Unexcused absences are absences which are not approved as above.~~

Parent Confirmed absences are those absences that the parents are aware of and approve. However, unless an absence meets the State's criteria for being Excused (as listed above) the absence will still count toward the State's 90% attendance rule.

Parents should contact the school prior to a non-illness absence to determine whether the proposed absence will be excused. A student's current grades and progress in classes may affect a principal's decision in approving or disapproving absences other than for illness or emergencies.

Unexcused absences (or Parent Confirmed) will may include:

- illness/sickness without a doctor's note
- vacations
- court/counseling without a note
- unrelated school activities

Tardiness

Every minute of a class is important for effective learning. Students who arrive after the start of class will be considered tardy. Tardiness will be dealt with at the building level with consequences being outlined in each student handbook. Students who are repeatedly being dismissed early from a class may also be considered tardy.

Credit Denial Requirements

For the purposes of this policy, whenever a student is not ~~attending present in~~ a class at least 90% of the time that school is in session (~~current grading period attendance not nine absences per semester or 4 days per quarter~~), the credit for that class will be denied. All absences count toward the State's 90% attendance requirement, with the exception of Excused absences as outlined above~~excused by a doctor's note or appointment confirmation or due to participation in school activities or funeral attendance~~. Parents who wish to appeal the denial of credit may do so. Any such appeal must include reasons for each specific absence. Each school will develop an Attendance Committee to handle credit appeals and deal with student attendance issues.

~~Students shall be counted as absent on a period by period basis unless they are involved in the following: approved school activities, individual and group counseling activities within the immediate school setting, involvement in discipline proceedings, special needs conferences, special education Individual Education Plan (IEP) Team meetings, standardized tests and health related activities within the immediate school setting such as health screening programs and emergency first aid.~~

A student who misses more than 20% of an individual class period will be considered absent for that period unless for an Excused Absences as outlined above.

Truancy

Students who repeatedly violate the attendance regulations established by the Board will be considered "habitually truant"; and a truancy petition will be filed with the Juvenile Court as per Idaho Code 33-206 by the building administrator or their designee. ~~Three~~ Nine unexcused ~~Unexcused or Parent Confirmed~~ absences or attendance below the State's 90% ~~current~~ attendance mark per semester reporting period will constitute grounds for a habitual truancy petition if class time is not made up. The school may also deny promotion to the next grade level due to poor attendance.

Students who are repeatedly being dismissed early from school may also be considered truant, and the time missed may need to be made up.

Make Up Time (Secondary Schools)

Students may be allowed to make up class time may be allowed as outlined in each per school handbooks. Students will be required to attend, at a minimum, 90% of assigned school days. Students who miss more than will be allowed to miss 9 days of Parent Confirmed or Unexcused absences during the semester at Minico and more than 4 days of Parent Confirmed or Unexcused absences per quarter at Mt. Harrison without having will have to make-up time or lose credit for that class.

A letter will be sent home to the students who have exceeded the State's 90% rule stating the number of hours they will be required to make-up. Students who exceed the State's 90% rules will be required to bring the letter back to the school with their parent/guardian's signature acknowledging the need to make up time in order to receive credit.



LEGAL REFERENCE: Idaho Code 33-206, 33-506(1)

ADOPTED: January 16, 1996

AMENDED/REVISED: September 18, 2006; September 21, 2009;

September 20, 2010; January 17, 2011; May 16, 2011; September 17, 2012;

February 17, 2014; September 19, 2016