

**ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

The School Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 7 to 16 are obligated to send their children to public school except as allowed by law. The Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use any legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

The School Board believes that extracurricular activities such as athletics, the arts, and academic competition, enhance our students' overall educational experience. The travel associated with these activities can create challenges for students trying to meet academic requirements, and for staff through disruptions to classroom planning. It is incumbent on the students to prioritize their activities in order to maintain an academic focus. Families, coaches, and staff should assist in developing ideas for minimizing the impact of absences due to travel.

*(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)*

*(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)*

**Excused Absences**

The Superintendent or designee may excuse student absences for health reasons, family emergencies or other reasons the Superintendent or designee determines constitute good cause.

*(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)*

**Unexcused Absences/Truancy**

The Board is committed to keeping students in school. Truancy is defined as the absence of a student from class without the knowledge or prior consent of the parent/guardian. The Superintendent or designee shall implement all steps appropriate to reduce student absences and to ensure that all children residing within the district are receiving appropriate educational services as required by law.

*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*

*(cf. 6164.5 - Student Study Teams)*

*(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)*

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with Board policy.

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board any apparent violations of compulsory attendance laws. The Board shall investigate such reports and any public complaints of violations of state compulsory attendance laws.

*Continued...*

**ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)**

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.070 School age

14.17.500 Student count estimates

14.17.160 Student counting periods

14.30.010 When attendance compulsory

14.30.020 Violations

14.30.030 Prevention and reduction of truancy

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 09.005-4 AAC 09.105 State aid

*Revised 10/11*

*Reviewed 3/2015*

*Reviewed 4/2018*

*Reviewed 10/2021*