

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. To foster this philosophy, all MCSD students are expected to maintain 90% or greater attendance each semester or quarter.

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

## **DEFINITIONS**

### **Excused Absences**

Absences that will **not** be included in the calculation for the 90% attendance requirement. Students shall be counted as absent on a period-by-period basis unless they are excused as listed below. They will include the following:

- funerals
- an absence verified by a doctor's note upon return to school
- court/counseling verified by a note from the court/counselor upon return to school
- incarceration (i.e. Juvenile Detention Center)
- in-school suspension
- school activities

### **Unexcused Absences**

Absences that **will be** included in the calculation for the 90% attendance requirement. Students shall be counted as absent on a period-by-period basis unless they are excused as listed above. They will include the following:

- illness/sickness **without** a doctor's note
- doctor, court or counseling absences with a note received more than 5 school days after returning to school
- vacations
- out-of-school suspensions
- unrelated school activities

All notes verifying absences for doctor, court, and counseling appointments must be emailed or faxed from the doctor's office or delivered to the school by a parent within 5 school days of returning to school in order to be accepted as an excused absence as defined above.

### **Parent Confirmed Absences**

Parent confirmed absences are those absences that the parents are aware of and have approved. However, unless an absence meets one or more of the excused absence criteria listed above, the absence will be included in the calculation for the 90% attendance requirement. 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 those for illness or emergencies.

**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.

**Extended Illnesses**

If a student is confined to home or hospital for an extended period, the school shall arrange for the accomplishment of assignments at the places of confinement whenever practicable. If the student is unable to do his/her schoolwork, or if there are major requirements of a particular course that cannot be accomplished outside of class, the student may be required to take an incomplete or withdraw from the class without penalty.

**Chronic Health Conditions**

Students with a chronic health condition which interrupts regular attendance may qualify for placement in a limited attendance and participation program. The student and his or her parent shall apply to the principal or counselor, and a limited program shall be written following the advice and recommendations of the student's medical advisor. The recommended limited program shall be approved by the principal. Staff shall be informed of the student's needs, though the confidentiality of medical information shall be respected at the parent's request. Absence verified by a medical practitioner may be sufficient justification for home instruction.

**Exemption for Cause (IC 33-204)**

When a licensed physician or psychiatrist shall state in writing to the board of trustees of a school district that physical, mental or emotional condition of a child does not permit attendance at school, and a petition is filed with the board by the parent or guardian of the child requesting such child to be exempt from the provisions of IC 33-202, the board of trustees may at its discretion grant the requested exemption during the existence of such condition. The board may, from time to time as it may determine, require additional examination of the child and report thereon.

**Credit Denial and Appeals**

For the purposes of this policy, whenever a student is not attending a class at least 90% of the time school is in session (7 absences per semester or 4 days per quarter), credit for that class will be denied. Both unexcused and parent confirmed absences will be used in the calculation of the 90% attendance requirement. Each school will develop an Attendance Committee to handle credit appeals and deal with student attendance issues. If the committee chooses to deny credits, appeals may be made to the Superintendent based on absences due to extenuating circumstances as defined in policy 266.00 Secondary Grading Alternatives, extended illnesses, or chronic health conditions, provided that the student has completed the class with a 60% or higher, has evidence of an extenuating circumstance that was beyond the student's control, or a documented chronic health condition or extended illness. If parents do not agree with the Superintendent's decision, they may

then appeal to the Board of Trustees. Due to credit recovery options available to all students at the secondary schools no other appeals will be considered.

### **Credit Recovery**

Students who have more than 7 parent-confirmed or unexcused absences during the semester at Minico or more than 4 parent-confirmed or unexcused absences per quarter at Mt. Harrison will need to explore credit recovery options at the school or lose credit for that class. Credit recovery options may include credit recovery classes during the regular school year, credit recovery classes during the summer school program, or Idaho Digital Learning Academy classes. Please note: loss of credits results in being off-track for graduation. Counselors will notify students who are off-track to graduate.

### **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. Attendance calculated as described above that falls below the 90% attendance requirement in any given reporting period will constitute grounds for a habitual truancy petition. The school may also deny credits and promotion to the next grade level due to poor attendance. Students who are repeatedly dismissed early from school may also be considered truant.

### **Ten (10) Consecutive Absences**

In the event a student is absent ten (10) consecutive days the student will be dropped from enrollment. The principal will ensure that there has been communication with the parent/guardian regarding the absences. Building level principals may choose to keep a student enrolled, that has missed ten (10) consecutive days, if the absences are due to medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances.



### **LEGAL REFERENCE:**

**Idaho Code 33-202; 33-204; 33-205; 33-207  
Idaho Constitution Article IX 9**

**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; July 20, 2020; June 20, 2022;  
December 18, 2023; May 19, 2025**