

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.

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. 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. For the purposes of this policy, whenever a student is not present in a class at least 90% of the time that school is in session (current grading period attendance not cumulative), the credit for that class will be denied. All absences, ~~excused and unexcused~~, count toward the 90% attendance requirement, with the exception of absences excused by a doctor's note or appointment confirmation or due to participation in school activities; or attending a funeral attendance, or a doctor's note or appointment confirmation. Parents who wish to appeal the denial of credit may do so. Any such appeal must include reasons for each specific absence, ~~and provide verification from a licensed physician regarding medically necessary absences.~~ 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 ~~IEP~~ (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.

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. Three unexcused absences or attendance below the 90% current attendance mark will constitute grounds for a habitual truancy petition. The school may also deny promotion to the next grade level due to poor attendance.

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



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