

BP 5113 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.

Note: The School Board, may allow students to be absent for religious exercises or instruction. The following optional language may be revised or deleted as needed.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be excused.

No student excused for religious holiday shall be denied the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday or denied an award or eligibility to compete for an award.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Unexcused Absences/Truancy

The School 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 School 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.

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*

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Craig City School District