



**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent

**DATE:** September 22, 2025

**SUBJECT:** First Reading of Policy 503, Student Attendance

**BACKGROUND:**

School District 197 Policy 503, Student Attendance was reviewed against Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Model Policy.

There is some reorganization (and some slight wording changes) of the policy based on the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Model Policy.

The language in purple is language developed by School District 197 in previous iterations of this policy; it does not appear in the model policy. It was added in 2021 and is in the current policy. One item added to the list of excused absences is religious holidays. The new MSBA model language does address this in III. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION. The administration considered eliminating the language in the list of excused absences and excused tardies, but ultimately left it in. Having the language in both locations provides an additional layer of clarity for families and staff.

In 2. B. 5. d), the Model MSBA Policy provides optional language, which focuses on grade reductions. School District 197 keeps the language focused on how the District works with families and the county to support school attendance.

These changes stem from an analysis of recent legislation, the MSBA Model Policy, and use of the Four-Way Equity Test.

**RESOLUTION:**

This is a first reading, no resolution is needed at this time.