

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY (REGULATION)**

The board of education believes that attendance in regularly scheduled classes is a key factor in student achievement. However, it is important for those students who are ill to stay home when sick. Students who have a fever or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100 degrees Fahrenheit should not be at school or school activities. The board recognizes, however, that the cocurricular program of the school also has educational benefit. Therefore, it shall be the policy of this board to minimize absenteeism from regular classes while providing students the opportunity to participate in cocurricular activities.

### **ABSENCES**

Excused absence will be granted for the following reasons:

1. Personal or family illnesses
2. Medical appointments
3. Legal matters, including service on a grand, multicounty grand, or petit jury \*
4. Extenuating circumstances deemed necessary by the principal
5. Observance of holidays required by student's religious affiliation.
6. Documented participation in (5) 4-H activities each school year.
7. Documented speech therapy, occupational therapy, or any other service related to the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school if a child is to be absent for enumerated items 1-5 in a reasonable amount of time. The school will contact those students' parents who do not call. If no contact is made, the parent must send a note or call the day the child returns before the student can be excused. The student may promptly make up all work missed without penalty. It is the responsibility of the student, on the day of return, to make arrangements to see that the work is made up.

Enumerated items 6-7 are statutorily excused absences which will require notification to the school district prior to the absence and documentation from the 4-H educator or service provider after the absence to identify the absence as excused.

Students will be given the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed while they are participating in activities or programs sponsored by 4-H. Grades cannot be adversely affected for lack of attendance or participation due to their participation in activities or programs sponsored by 4-H so long as the district was notified prior to the absence and the appropriate documentation was provided by the 4-H educator after the absence which substantiates the student's attendance at the 4-H event or activity.

Students will not be provided an excused 4-H absence for any student who participates in an activity or program sponsored by 4-H if the 4-H activity occurs during the scheduled statewide student assessment window set by the State Board of Education or if the student has been disciplined or suspended by the school district and a condition of the punishment would preclude the student from participation in any school field trips or extracurricular activities.

The district will not require medical documentation to support personal or family illness that results in an excused absence. However, students will be required to make up any work that has been missed. Student absences due to a severe, chronic, or life-threatening physical or mental illness, injury, or trauma will be exempted from inclusion in the calculation of the chronic absenteeism indicator of the applicable school site so long as the determination of eligibility

**ATTENDANCE POLICY, REGULATION (Cont.)**

is made by the district's medical exemption review committee. The district's medical exemption review committee will be designated by the superintendent on a yearly basis and shall report student absences that are medically exempt to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) Office of Accountability.

A student will not be considered absent from school if:

1. They are not physically present at school but are completing work in a distance learning program or virtual online program approved by the school district and are meeting the following attendance requirements:
  - a. The student has completed instructional activities on no less than ninety (90%) of the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format to include online logins to curriculum or programs, offline activities, completed assignments, testing, face-to-face communications or meetings with school personnel via teleconference, videoconference, email, text, or phone,
  - b. The student is on pace for on-time completion of the course as required by the school district,
  - c. The student has completed instructional activities within the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format during the academic year; or
2. They have a medical condition that incapacitates the student and precludes them from participating in instruction in a traditional school setting and the student is able to progress in instruction via alternative education delivery methods approved by the local board of education.
3. They are participating in a released time program held by an independent entity off school premises for no more than three class periods per week or a maximum of 125 class periods per school year provided that:
  - a. The student's parent or legal guardian provides written consent prior to the student's participation in the released time course.
  - b. No school funds other than de minimis administrative costs are expended and no school district personnel, equipment or resources are involved in providing the instruction.
  - c. The independent entity maintains attendance records and makes the records available to the school district and board of education.
  - d. Transportation is provided to and from the place of instruction by the independent entity, the student or the student's parent or legal guardian.
  - e. The independent entity or the student's parent or legal guardian indemnifies the school district and holds it harmless with regard to any liability arising from conduct that does not occur on school property under the control or supervision of the school district and the independent entity maintains adequate insurance for that purpose.
  - f. The student assumes responsibility for any missed schoolwork; and

- g. The student may not be excused to participate in a released time course during any class in which the subject matter being taught is subject to the assessment requirements of Section 1210.508 of Title 70.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY, REGULATION (Cont.)****School Activity**

- 1.The student will be allowed to be absent from the classroom for a maximum of ten days per semester to participate in activities sponsored by the school.
- 2.The student will be allowed to make up any work missed while participating.

**Unexcused Absence**

This is any absence that does not fall within one of the above categories. Work may be made up. 60% of the grade will be counted. Seven (7) unexcused absences will result in that student not receiving credit in that class for the semester.

**Truancy**

A student is considered truant when absent from the classroom without the knowledge of either the school or the parent or if the parent does not compel the student to attend school

**Tardies**

- 1.A student is tardy who is not in the student's seat when the bell to begin the period sounds.
- 2.A student who is more than Fifteen (15) minutes late is counted absent for the period.
- 3.Each third tardies will constitute an unexcused absence from that class.

Any student who exceeds the seven (7) day limit for unexcused absences may appeal to the board of education for reinstatement of credit. Consideration will be given as to the reason for the absences as well as to the attempts by parents to minimize absenteeism.

**Chronic Absenteeism**

Chronic absentee means a student who is absent 10 percent or more of the school days in the school year exclusive of a significant medical condition, when the total number of days the student is absent is divided by the total number of days the student is enrolled, and school was actually taught in the regular schools of the district, exclusive of

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Saturdays and Sundays. When a student is identified as a chronic absentee, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate with the student and his/her parents/guardians to determine the reason(s) for the excessive absences, ensure the student and parents/guardians are aware of the adverse consequences of poor attendance, and jointly develop a plan for improving the student's school attendance.

A significant medical condition means a severe, chronic, or life-threatening physical or mental illness, infection, injury, disease, or emotional trauma. Any COVID-19 related absences due to a child's medical needs will be considered a significant medical condition.

**\* LEGAL REFERENCE:**     **38 O.S. §37**  
                                     **70 O.S. § 10-105**  
                                     **70 O.S. § 3-145.8**  
                                     **70 O.S. § 11-101.3**