

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 co-curricular program of the school also has educational benefits. Therefore, it shall be the policy of this board to minimize absenteeism from regular classes while providing students the opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities.

The superintendent is directed to develop, for board approval, regulations that support this policy.

ABSENCES

An 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.

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the school if a child has been absent for one of the above reasons. 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.

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 is made by the district's medical exemption review committee. The district's medical exemption review committee will be designated by the superintendent every year 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 one of the following attendance requirements: Students and staff will be expected to participate, and attendance shall be taken in accordance with district attendance policies and procedures for students and employees.

Public school students enrolled at the district may take supplemental online courses from a location inside or outside of the school site location and may take supplemental online courses outside the normal school hours of operation. Students who elect to enroll in supplemental online courses, regardless of when or where taken, are

still required to complete the equivalent number of hours of instruction as regularly enrolled students in the district and must satisfy the same attendance requirements of the district.

Students enrolled in supplemental online courses must meet all state-mandated compulsory attendance requirements and are not exempt from state truancy laws. Attendance and participation in a supplemental online course shall be monitored in accordance with district policy and determined by documented student/teacher/course interaction that may include but is not limited to, online chats, emails, and posting/submission of lessons. The student may be counted "in attendance" when the supplemental online course provider provides evidence of student/teacher/course interaction that demonstrates student progress toward learning objectives and demonstrates regular student engagement in course activity.

- a. The student has completed instructional activities for no less than ninety (90%) of the time that services were provided in a virtual or distance learning format. Instructional activities may 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 are not physically present at school but are completing work in a virtual online program approved by the school district, or
 3. 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.

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.

Absence by Arrangement

These are absences in which the parents deem it necessary that a child misses school for reasons other than those that fall within an excused absence.

1. A student may take up to 10 days of absences by arrangement per semester.
2. A student may make up all work missed without penalty. It is up to the student, on the day of return, to make arrangements to see that the work is made up.
3. In order to take an absence by arrangement, the parent, or guardian, must submit, at least two days before the absence, a written request for the student to be absent. If the request is not made as required, the absence will be treated as an unexcused absence.

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4. Absences by arrangement will count against a student's exemption from semester tests.

Unexcused Absence

This is an absence that does not fall within one of the above categories. Work may be made up. Fifty percent (50%) of the grade will be counted. Five (5) 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. The student may be subject to further disciplinary action by the Delaware County District Attorney.

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 twenty (20) minutes late is counted absent for the period.
3. Every 3 tardies will constitute an unexcused absence from that class.

Any student who exceeds the four (4) day limits 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 taught in the regular schools of the district, exclusive of 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