

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

When students who have been absent return to school, they must present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note from parent/guardian or parent-representative.
2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
 - a. Name of student.
 - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative.
 - c. Name of verifying employee.
 - d. Date or dates of absence.
 - e. Reason for absence.
3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee.
4. Any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was actually absent for the reasons stated. A written recording shall be made, including information outlined above.

Excused Absences

When students contemplate absence for personal reasons, their parents/guardians should write the Superintendent to ask that the expected absence be excused. Students must have a current grade point average of 2.00 or equivalent immediately prior to the planned absence or they may not apply. The Superintendent or designee may deny the request if he/she believes that the absence would be educationally harmful to the student or set a poor example in matters of school attendance for the student or other students. If the request is denied, reasons will be given.

Truancy

Unless a child subject to compulsory attendance laws is exempted, excluded or expelled from school attendance, each five days of unlawful absence constitutes a separate violation of state law. (A.S. 14.30.020)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

The parents/guardians shall be notified of any unexcused absence of their child and informed of state compulsory attendance laws.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for notifying parents/guardians and students when a student's absenteeism violates the district's attendance policies.

After three unexcused absences students shall be counseled in an attempt to alleviate the problem. The district, the parents/guardians, and the student shall work together to develop an appropriate plan for improving school attendance.

Continued truancy will ultimately result in suspension. A student suspended under this provision is entitled to due process protections and appeal procedures as set forth in Board policy and administrative regulation.