

Absences and Excuses

JBD

When a student is absent from school, an attempt shall be made to contact the parent or guardian to determine the reason for the absence. The principal has been designated to determine the acceptability and validity of excuses presented by the parent(s) or the student.

Procedures for notifying parents on the day of a student's absence shall be published in the student handbook.

Excused/Unexcused Absences

The definition of "excused absence" includes the following:

- Personal illness;
- Health-related treatment, examination, or recuperation;
- Serious illness or death of a member of the family;
- Obligatory religious observances;
- Participation in a district-approved or school sponsored activity or course;
- Absences prearranged by parents and approved by the principal; and
- Students of active duty military personnel may have additional excused absences at the discretion of the principal for visitations relative to leave or deployment.

All absences which do not fit into one of the above categories would be considered an unexcused absence. A student serving a period of suspension or expulsion from the district shall not be considered inexcusably absent.

Significant Part of a School Day

An absence of two or more hours in any school day shall be considered an absence for a significant part of the school day.

Make-Up Work

It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up assignments from teachers following an excused or unexcused absence.

BOE Approved: July 7, 2003

BOE Reviewed and Approved: April 28, 2014

BOE Approved KASB Recommendation: June 20, 2016

Cross Reference: AEB, IHEA, JBE and JDD

Truancy

JBE

The building principal (or designee) shall report students who are inexcusably absent from school to the appropriate authority.

Truancy is defined as any three consecutive unexcused absences, any five unexcused absences in a semester or seven unexcused absences in a school year, whichever comes first. School year means the period from July 1 to June 30. Students who are absent without a valid excuse for a significant part of any school day shall be considered truant.

Prior to reporting to either S.R.S. (if the student is under 13) or the county or district attorney (if the student is 13 or more years of age but less than 18 years of age), a letter shall be sent to the student's parent(s) or guardian notifying them that the student's failure to attend school without a valid excuse shall result in the student being reported truant.

Waiver of Compulsory Attendance Requirements

Students 16 or 17 years of age may be exempt from compulsory attendance regulations if the parent(s) or person acting as parent attend(s) the counseling session required by law and signs the appropriate consent and waiver form; if the student earns a GED; or if the student is exempt from compulsory attendance requirements pursuant to a court order.

Involvement of Law Enforcement

Law enforcement officers may return truant children to the school where the child is enrolled, to the child's parent or guardian or to another location designated by the board to address truancy issues.

Reporting to Parents

If a truant child is returned to school by a law enforcement official, the principal shall notify the parent or guardian.

Concurrent Enrollment Students (See IDCE and JQ)

Eligible students who are enrolled in a board-approved dual enrollment program shall not be considered truant, for the hours during the school day they attend classes at a Regent's university, community college, technical college, vocational educational school or Washburn University.

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BOE Revised and Approved: September 5, 2006

BOE Approved KASB Recommendation: September 17, 2012

BOE Revised and Approved: April 28, 2014

Cross Reference: AEB, IDCE, JBD, JBE and JQ

Release of a Student during the School Day

JBH

In recognition of the responsibility of the school district to parents for the health, welfare and safety of students, building principals will not release a student during the school day except to a student's lawful custodian as defined by Kansas law and whose identification is verified to the satisfaction of the principal or upon written or verbal request of a lawful custodian, which request shall be verified to the satisfaction of the principal. The name, address and telephone number of the lawful custodian shall be entered on the permanent record of the student in accordance with Board Policy JBC and JBH-R.

BOE Approved: July 7, 2003

BOE Reviewed and Approved: May 14, 2014

Cross Reference: EBB and EBBD

Release of a Student during the School Day

JBH-R

Before releasing a student during the school day, the building principal shall be responsible for verifying the identity of the person seeking release of the student.

If the principal is not satisfied with the identification provided by the person seeking release of a student, the student's release may be refused.

Students shall not be allowed to run personal errands for school employees off school premises during the school day.

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