

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Regular and punctual attendance will be required of each student enrolled in the district. The building Principals are responsible for developing student handbooks which will include rules regarding student absences, excuses and truancy. These rules will apply to all students.

The Board recognizes two kinds of absences: excused absence and truancy. Excused absences are absences due to illness, absence for participation in school activities, medical appointments, family emergencies, and necessary absences with the approval of the student's parent. All other absences are considered truancy.

A student will be considered as "truant" after they have reached a total of ten (10) ½ days of unexcused absences.

Any staff member aware of a Student leaving a class or the school grounds without permission shall report the departure immediately to the Principal or designee.

Students identified as being truant will be contacted by either a school official (truant officer) juvenile officer, police officer, or police volunteer and brought to school by juvenile officer or police officer.

When a student has been truant for a total of seven (7) ½ days, the principal or designee from the school where the student is enrolled will contact the parent or guardian and a meeting will be held to discuss the truancy. The principal or designee will work with the parents or guardian to develop a plan to eliminate any truancy in the future. If the truancy persists and reaches the legal ten (10) ½ days, the principal or designee will send by registered mail, a letter to the parents or guardian of the truant student, indicating the nature and seriousness of the problem and enclose a copy of RSA 193:1 the school attendance law. If necessary, a follow up truancy petition, Child in Need of Services (CHINS), will be filed in conjunction with local law enforcement with the local district court.

A truancy petition will not be filed by a school official alleging that the child is in need of services until all steps in the school district's intervention process have been followed.

Reference: JH-R

Legal References:

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

RSA 193:7, Penalty

RSA 193:8 Notice Requirements

RSA 193:16 Bylaws as to nonattendance

RSA 169D Children in Need of Services

NH Code of Administrative Rules Sec. Ed. 306.04(a)(1) Attendance and Absenteeism

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Sec. Ed. 306.04(c), Policy Relative to Attendance and Absenteeism

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