

## ATTENDANCE

The Board of Education as an agency of the State is required to enforce the regular attendance of students. The Board recognizes that the presence in the classroom enables the student to participate in instruction, class discussions, and other related activities. As such, regular attendance and classroom participation are integral to instilling incentives for the student to excel.

Attendance shall be required of all District students, except those exempted under Policy 5223 or by other provisions of State law, during the days and hours that the school is in session or during the attendance sessions to which s/he has been assigned.

The Superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student or from an adult student who has been absent for any reason, a written statement and/or confirmation of the cause for such absence. The Board reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each.

The Board may report to the Intermediate School District infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of sixteen (16).

- A. The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:
1. illness
  2. recovery from accident
  3. required court attendance
  4. professional appointments that cannot be accommodated after school hours
  5. death in the immediate family
  6. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
  7. such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent

- B. The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences, authorized under Policy 2370, to be in regular attendance for the program provided that s/he reports weekly to such staff member s/he is assigned for guidance at the place in which s/he is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.
- C. Students will be held responsible for learning the concepts that were taught on the days of absences. Absences cannot be "made up" merely by "doing" assigned tasks.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the attendance of students which:

- A. ensure a school session which is in conformity with the requirements of the law;
- B. ensure that students absent for any excusable reason have an opportunity to make up work they missed;
- C. govern the keeping of attendance records in accordance with the rules of the State Board and the Michigan Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual, including a written electronic attendance procedure, if applicable;
- D. ensure that any student who, due to a specifically identifiable physical or mental impairment, exceeds or may exceed the District's limit on excused absence is referred for evaluation for eligibility either under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

Such guidelines should provide that a student's grade in any course is based on his/her performance in the instructional setting and is not reduced for reasons of conduct. If a student violates the attendance or other rules of the school, s/he should be disciplined appropriately for the misconduct, but his/her grades should be based upon what the student can demonstrate s/he has learned.

M.C.L.A. 380.1561, 380.1561(3a-3c), 380.1586(3)