

BP 5113 ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The School Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The School Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. Parents/guardians of children aged 7 to 16 are obligated to send their children to public school except as allowed by law. The School Board shall abide by all state attendance laws and may use any legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

Excused Absences

The Superintendent or designee may excuse student absences for health reasons, family emergencies or other reasons the Superintendent or designee determines constitute good cause.

Note: The School Board, may allow students to be absent for religious exercises or instruction. The following optional language may be revised or deleted as needed.

Student absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises away from school property may be excused.

No student excused for religious holiday shall be denied the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday or denied an award or eligibility to compete for an award.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

Unexcused Absences/Truancy

The School Board is committed to keeping students in school. Truancy is defined as the absence of a student from class without the knowledge or prior consent of the parent/guardian. The Superintendent or designee shall implement all steps appropriate to reduce student absences and to ensure that all children residing within the district are receiving appropriate educational services as required by law.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Study Teams)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

Note: The following optional paragraph is for use by districts that authorize teachers to assign failing grades for excessive unexcused absences as provided in BP 5121.

A student's grades may be affected by excessive unexcused absences in accordance with School Board policy.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the School Board any apparent violations of compulsory attendance laws. The School Board shall investigate such reports and any public complaints of violations of state compulsory attendance laws.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.03.070](#) School age

[14.17.500](#) Student count estimates

[14.17.160](#) Student counting periods

[14.30.010](#) When attendance compulsory

[14.30.020](#) Violations

[14.30.030](#) Prevention and reduction of truancy

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

[4 AAC 09.005-4 AAC 09.105](#) State aid

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AASB Policy Reference Manual
