

Attendance Policy

The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual child. The regular contact of the students with one another in the classroom and their participation in instructional activities under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose. This is an established principle of education that underlies and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in this and every other state in the nation. The good things that schools have to offer can only be presented to students who are in attendance. With continued emphasis regarding Excellence in Education, all parties involved in attendance can better strive for quality in the classroom. Attendance reflects a student's dependability and is a significant factor on the student's permanent record. Future employers are as much concerned about punctuality and dependability as they are about academic record. School success, scholarship, and job opportunity are greatly affected by a good attendance record.

90% Attendance

It is the intent of the Board of Trustees to have students attend school on a regular basis. Regular and consistent attendance results in increased learning. It is also the intent of the Board of Trustees to have the regular classroom teacher present whenever possible. A student's presence in the classroom with the regular teacher contributes to time on task, and time on task attributes directly to learning.

All students must be in attendance in each classroom 90% of the time when that class is in session.

The ONLY absences that WILL NOT be used in calculating the attendance record are:

- A. Those that occur due to school-sponsored activities, since these are considered an equivalent educational experience.
- B. Bereavement in the immediate family (grandmother, grandfather, father, mother, sister, brother). Any extended bereavement may be reviewed by the Attendance Board;
- C. Weddings, extraordinary events with family or family emergencies;
- D. Medical or dental appointments not possible during other than school time;
- E. Subpoenas to appear in court or court-ordered, out-of-district placements for special services; and
- F. Illness or hospitalization verified by a doctor's statement.

Absences which will be counted in the 90% limit will include such areas as: work days, vacations, visiting friends or relatives, suspension in and out of school, watching tournaments when not an actual participant, hair, photography appointments, skiing, hunting, court

appearances, attending concerts, shopping, or any others not mentioned which are unacceptable to the Attendance Committee.

### Truancy

Attendance at school is more than a legal obligation; it is a privilege. Every child of compulsory school age must be in attendance unless otherwise exempted as provided in Idaho Code §§ 33-204, 205 or as determined by school authorities.

The absence of a student from class or any portion of a class for any reason other than illness, emergency, or activities which have prior approval of the administration is to be considered an unexcused absence and therefore, an act of truancy.

When a student is absent for any reason except for a school-sponsored or an administration-approved absence, an adequate acceptable excuse must be provided within two (2) school days following return to school; otherwise, the absence is classified as unexcused. Parents, guardians, doctors or other responsible persons should provide excuses for all students except married students or those of age 18 with a current signed parent consent form on file, who may speak for themselves. An advance excused absence for trips, work, hunting, etc. may be provided to students who are passing. An advance excused absence must be approved prior to the absence by the principal and must include adequate provision to make up class work. Students with poor academic standing or who have been truant in the current or preceding semester are ineligible for advance excuses. An advance excused absence requires the prior approval of each of the student's teachers and the principal.

Any student who is a truant for the first time will have a conference between student and principal with parent contacted. The student will receive a grade of "0" for all classes missed. The second truancy will result in a student-parent/guardian-principal conference. The student will receive a grade of "0" for all classes missed. The third truancy will result in the student being considered as having repeatedly violating the attendance policy and he/she may either be suspended from school for no more than five days, or his/her case may be referred to the school board for proper action, including expulsion. The student will receive a grade of "0" for all classes missed for each day absent. Days suspended will count as absences toward the 90% rule. In addition, the prosecuting attorney will be notified for purposes of filing a complaint against the parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the care of the child in a court of competent jurisdiction. Any parent or guardian of a public school pupil who is found to have knowingly allowed such pupil to become a habitual truant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

A student who has been expelled for attendance violations may petition the Board for reinstatement. Such petition may be granted upon presentation of a firm and unequivocal commitment to maintain regular attendance.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

To participate in any extra-curricular activity on any given day, the student must be in attendance in each class for which he/she is enrolled. Exceptions to this rule can only be made through the building principal, one (1) day prior to the absence. Students who are suspended are not eligible to either participate in or attend any extra-curricular activities during the suspension.

### 90% Attendance Appeal Process

An Attendance Committee shall convene at least once each semester for the purpose of evaluating student attendance and will make a determination based on facts as to whether or not a student will receive or be denied credit for exceeding the ninety percent (90%) attendance policy.

If a student has lost credit due to excessive absences and the parent or guardian feels there is an extenuating circumstance, he or she may appeal to the Attendance Committee.

In reviewing written documentation during the appeal hearing, the Attendance Committee will consider the following: (1) attendance for the preceding semester and/or year, (2) grade(s) earned in the class(es) where credit was lost and other grades, (3) made-up work completed, and student's attitude toward school, and (4) extenuating circumstances. The Committee's decision and acceptance or rejection of extenuating circumstances is final.

Legal Reference: Art. IX, § 9, Idaho Constitution – Compulsory Attendance at School

I.C. § 33-202	School attendance compulsory
I.C. § 33-204	Exemption for Cause
I.C. § 33-205	Denial of School Attendance
I.C. § 33-207	Proceedings against parents or guardians

### Policy History:

Adopted on: June 10, 2008

Revised on: