

503 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance.
- B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

NOTE: Individual building attendance policies may vary. Refer to your student's building handbook for additional information and building specific details.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

School attendance is significantly related to school achievement and therefore the community, school, and parents/guardians will be contacted to develop a plan to support regular school attendance.

The school is the arbitrator of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. When absences become excessive for any reason, parents/guardians will be contacted to develop a plan to support regular school attendance.

Minnesota state law requires that every child between seven and eighteen years of age shall attend a public or private school and that the parent/guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child.

Attendance procedures shall be presented to the school board for review and approval on an annual basis.

III. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

Hard copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents/guardians upon request in the Principal's office. Attendance procedures will be disseminated through student and teacher handbooks and posted on district and building web-pages.

IV. REQUIRED REPORTING

A. Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minnesota Statute provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official

shall notify the student's parent/guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means.

- Legal References:*
- Minn. Stat. § 120A.05 (Definitions)
 - Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)
 - Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)
 - Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)
 - Minn. Stat. § 120A.30 (Attendance Officers)
 - Minn. Stat. § 120A.34 (Violations; Penalties)
 - Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
 - Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 (Definitions)
 - Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 (Notice to Parent or Guardian When Child is a Continuing Truant)
 - Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 19 (Habitual Truant Defined)
 - Minn. Stat. § 260C.201 (Dispositions; Children in Need of Protection or Services or Neglected and in Foster Care)
 - Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565, 95 S.Ct. 729 (1975)
 - Slocum v. Holton Board of Education*, 429 N.W.2d 607 (Mich. App. Ct. 1988)
 - Campbell v. Board of Education of New Milford*, 475 A.2d 289 (Conn. 1984)
 - Hamer v. Board of Education of Township High School District No. 113*, 66 Ill. App.3d 7, 383 N.E.2d 231 (1978)
 - Gutierrez v. School District R-1*, 585 P.2d 935 (Co. Ct. App. 1978)
 - Knight v. Board of Education*, 38 Ill. App. 3d 603, 348 N.E.2d 299 (1976)
 - Dorsey v. Bale*, 521 S.W.2d 76 (Ky. 1975)
- Cross Reference:*
- Chisago Lakes Policy 506 (Student Discipline)