

Educational Enhancement Opportunity Definition

To request an absence to attend or participate in an educational activity, please complete this application form and return it to your school principal at least five (5) days prior to the absence. Such an absence as requested by this signed application and approved by the Director of Pupil Personnel, will count your child as present in school and enable the school system to acquire funding for the absence. The major intent of the activity must be educational (like a field trip) and an extension of their studies in order for the student to be granted this type of absence.

KRS 159.035 Guidelines as follows:

The Director of Pupil Personnel/Principal shall give a student an excused absence of up to ten (10) school days to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity determined to be of significant educational value, including but not limited to participation in an educational foreign exchange program or an intensive instructional, experiential, or performance program in one (1) of the core curriculum subjects of English, science, mathematics, social studies, foreign language, and the arts.

(a) A student receiving an excused absence under this subsection shall have the opportunity to make up school work missed and shall not have his or her class grades adversely affected for lack of class attendance or class participation due to the excused absence.

(b) Educational enhancement opportunities under this subsection ***shall not include nonacademic extracurricular activities***, but may include programs not sponsored by the school district.

(c) If a request for an excused absence to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity is denied by a school principal/Director of Pupil Personnel, a student may appeal the decision to the district superintendent, who shall make a determination whether to uphold or alter the decision of the principal. If a superintendent upholds the denial, a student may appeal the decision to the local board of education, which shall make a final determination. A principal, superintendent, and local board of education shall make their determinations based on the provisions of this subsection and the district's school attendance policies adopted in accordance with KRS 158.070 and KRS 159.150.

(d) A student receiving an excused absence under the provisions of this subsection shall be considered present in school during the excused absence for the purposes of calculating average daily attendance as defined by KRS 157.320 under the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky program.

(e) ***A student shall not be eligible to receive an excused absence under the provisions of this subsection for an absence during a school's testing window established for assessments of the state assessment developed under KRS 158.6453 or during a testing period established for the administration of additional district-wide assessments at the school***, except if Director of Pupil Personnel/principal determines that extenuating circumstances make an excused absence to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity appropriate.

Educational Enhancement Opportunity Request Forms

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

(THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL / DESIGNEE)

This request must meet all three criteria to be eligible for an educational opportunity absence:

1. This request is for an absence that will have “significant educational value” and be “intensive” in nature. Yes No
2. This trip is tied to one of the core curriculum subjects of English, science, mathematics, social studies, foreign language or the arts. Yes No
3. The major purpose of the trip is educational. Yes No

As Principal/Director of Personnel, I recommend: I do not recommend: that this educational opportunity absence be granted.

Principal’s Rationale _____

Signature of Principal/Director of Pupil Personnel

Date

FOR SUPPORT SERVICES USE ONLY – IF APPEALED

As Superintendent, I recommend I do not recommend that this educational opportunity absence be granted.

Superintendent’s Rationale _____

Signature of Superintendent

Date

The District grants does not grant this educational opportunity absence.

Signature of the Board Chairman

Date