

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (EXCEPT FOR TRUANT, SUSPENDED AND/OR EXPELLED STUDENTS)

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following shall be considered excused absences per Colorado Revised Statute 22-33-104:

1. A student who is temporarily ill or injured or whose absence is approved by the Administrator/Principal of the school of attendance.
2. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental, or emotional disability.
3. A student who has been suspended, expelled, or denied admission in accordance with the provisions of Board Policy JK; except that, when a pupil is expelled for the remainder of the school year, the parent, guardian, or legal custodian is responsible for seeing that either the provisions of Board Policy JK are complied with during the period of expulsion from the school district or that the pupil meets the conditions for exemption specified by CRS 22-33-106;
4. A student to whom a current age and school certificate or work permit has been issued pursuant to the Colorado Youth Employment Opportunity Act of 1971, Article 12 of Title 8 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.
5. A student who is in the custody of a court or law enforcement authorities.
6. A student who is pursuing a work-study program under the supervision of a public school.
7. A student who is being instructed at home:
 - (I) By a teacher licensed pursuant to article 60.5 or 61 of this title; or
 - (II) Under a nonpublic home-based educational program pursuant to section 22-33-104.5.
8. A student who has graduated from the twelfth grade

Absences related to school activities (including, but not limited to, field trips, and athletic and musical events in which the student is required to participate) may be classified as excused on a case by case basis, at the Administrator/Principal's or Designee's discretion. Such absences will not count against a student for purposes of attaining a perfect attendance record or for purposes of initiating judicial proceedings to enforce compulsory attendance.

Absences due to severe weather conditions may be considered excused. Parents/guardians exercising their best judgment may keep their child home from school because of severe weather conditions. These absences may be classified as excused on a case-by-case basis, at the Administrator/Principal's or Designee's discretion. Such absences will not count against a student for purposes of attaining a perfect attendance record or for purposes of initiating judicial proceedings to enforce compulsory attendance.

In cooperation with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, principals are encouraged to allow up to at least ten school days of excused absences for students visiting with a parent/guardian on leave from military deployment.

Chronic Absenteeism occurs when a student is absent 10% or more of the days enrolled in public school during the academic year. Chronically absent students include students who are absent for any reason (e.g., illness, suspension, the need to care for a family member), regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. A student is absent if he or she is not physically on school grounds and is not participating in instruction or instruction-related activities at an approved off-grounds location for the school day.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, HABITUAL TRUANCY AND CLASSROOM TARDINESS

A student's absence will be considered unexcused when the student is absent from school without the prearranged permission of the parent/guardian or documented permission has not been received from the parent/ guardian within 48 hours from the start of the absence. The parent/guardian of the student receiving an unexcused absence shall be notified within 24 hours from the start of the absence.

According to Colorado Revised Statute 22-33-107 (3)(a)(I) a student is habitually truant when the student accrues four unexcused absences in any one month or ten unexcused absences during any school year.

Classroom tardiness is an absence from any marking period which is less than ten minutes for grades 6-12 and less than 20 minutes for grades K-5. Absences with this demarcation will be marked unexcused tardy.

In an unavoidable situation, a student detained by certified staff shall not be considered tardy provided that they give the student a pass to enter his or her next class. Certified staff members shall honor passes presented in accordance with this policy, and absences will be marked as excused tardy.

An absence of more than 10 minutes for secondary students, grades 6-12, and 20 minutes for student's grades K-5, of any attendance period, shall be marked absent.

CONSIDERATIONS

The school of attendance may require suitable proof regarding the above exceptions, including written statements from professional sources. Each absence shall be entered on the student's record.

The school may require a conference with the student and/or the student's parent/guardian or may otherwise attempt to address problem attendance, regardless of whether the student's absences are excused or unexcused, and may impose disciplinary actions pursuant to Board of Education Policy JK, Student Discipline, for any unexcused absence. For special rules that apply to truant, suspended, and/or expelled students refer to Policies JHB and JKD/JKE.

Adopted: July 12, 1978

Revised: March 10, 1982
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Revised: July 23, 1986
Revised: June 1988
Revised: December 1994
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LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(n)
C.R.S. 22-33-101 et seq. (School Attendance Law of 1963)
1 CCR 301-78 – Standardized Calculation for Counting Student
Attendance and Truancy
Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

CROSS REFS.: IC/ICA, School Year/School Calendar
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages
JH, Student Absences and Excuses
JH-R-2, Online School Student Participation and Absences
JHB, Truancy
JK, Student Discipline
JKD/JKE, Student Suspension/Expulsion Denial of Admissions
JLIB, Closed Campus/Student Dismissal Precautions