

The following information can be found in the:

[Connecticut State Department of Education’s Guidelines for Implementation of the Definitions of Excused and Unexcused Absences](#) and Best Practices for Absence Prevention and Intervention and on page 14 of the [West Woods Family Handbook](#)

| Absences 1-9 | Absences 10+ | Mental Health Days |
|--|--|--|
| <p>These absences can be excused for any reason a parent provides.</p> | <p>After the 9 absences, the following absences will only be excused if they meet one of Connecticut’s Acceptable Reasons which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student illness (<i>Note: to be deemed excused, an appropriately licensed medical professional must verify all student illness absences, regardless of the absence’s length</i>). ● Student’s observance of a religious holiday ● Death in the student’s family or other emergency beyond the control of the student’s family. ● Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required). ● The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (parental documentation is not required for this reason). ● Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by district administrators. (Opportunities must meet certain criteria) | <p>The state allows students TWO excused mental health days per year.</p> <p>If your child utilizes a mental health day, you are still required to notify the school regarding the absence.</p> <p><i>Be sure to note “mental health day” when reporting the absence.</i></p> <p><i>School personnel will check in with you to see if there are supports that the school can provide to assist your child.</i></p> |

If, after the use of the first 9 excused absences your child is absent and there is NOT an acceptable reason, then the absence is marked unexcused. Unexcused absences are monitored by the school to determine truancy.