



FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 192	<i>MSBA Policy 1019</i> <i>Orig. 1995</i> <i>Revised: 04-2022</i> <i>Adopted: 09-2013</i>
POLICIES AND REGULATIONS	

## **STUDENTS**

### **1019 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. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.
- 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.

#### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

##### **A. Responsibilities**

###### **1. Student's Responsibility**

It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class. Finally, the student has a shared responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

###### **2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

###### **3. Teacher's Responsibility**

It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain

accurate attendance records in each assigned class. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. The teacher also has a shared responsibility to inform any student about the missed learning. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

4. Administrator's Responsibility

- a. It is the administrator's responsibility to require students to attend all assigned classes. It is also the administrator's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students, and to maintain accurate records on student attendance. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.
- b. In accordance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law, Minnesota Statute. section 120A.22, the students of the school district are REQUIRED to attend all assigned classes every day school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the school board from attendance because the student has already completed state and school district standards required to graduate from high school, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

B. Attendance Procedures

1. Excused Absences

- a. To be considered an excused absence, the student's parent or legal guardian may be asked to verify, in writing, the reason for the student's absence from school. A note from a medical professional stating that the student cannot attend school is a valid excuse.
- b. The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:
  - (1) Illness.
  - (2) Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
  - (3) A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.

- (4) Medical, dental, or orthodontic treatment, or a counseling appointment.
- (5) Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- (6) Religious instruction not to exceed three hours in any week.
- (7) Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- (8) Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work.
- (9) Family emergencies.
- (10) Active duty in any military branch of the United States.
- (11) A student's condition that requires ongoing treatment for a mental health diagnosis.
- (12) Other reason excused by parent or guardian and school administrator.

c. Consequences of Excused Absences

- (1) Students whose absences are excused are required to make up all assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.
- (2) Work missed because of absence should be made up within a reasonable period of time upon the student's return to school.

2. Unexcused Absences

a. The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

- (1) Truancy. An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the school district.
- (2) Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the school district's attendance procedures.

- (3) Work at home.
- (4) Work at a business, except under a school-sponsored work release program.

b. Consequences of Unexcused Absences

- (1) Absences resulting from official suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statute sections 121A.40-121A.56.
- (3) In cases of recurring unexcused absences of an elementary student, the administration may report the problem to Dakota County Social Services. In cases of recurring unexcused absences of a middle school or high school student, the administration may request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes.
- (4) Students with unexcused absences may be subject to discipline in the following manner, subject to administrative discretion:
  - (a) After five unexcused absences in a term, the student may be required to attend a conference with the student's parent and school administrator, in order to have a greater understanding as to the nature of the absences and to develop strategies that support consistent attendance.

C. Tardiness

1. Definition: Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.
2. Procedures for Reporting Tardiness
  - a. Students tardy at the start of school must report to the school office for an admission slip.
  - b. Tardiness between periods will be handled by the teacher.
3. Excused Tardiness

Valid excuses for tardiness are:

- a. Illness.
- b. Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- c. A death or funeral in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
- d. Medical, dental, orthodontic, or mental health treatment.
- e. Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- f. Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- g. Any tardiness for which the student has been excused in writing by an administrator or faculty member.

4. Unexcused Tardiness

- a. An unexcused tardiness is failing to be in an assigned area at the designated time class period commences without a valid excuse.
- b. The following are other examples of tardiness which may not be excused, subject to the discretion of the administrator: oversleeping, missing the bus, traffic congestion, car trouble, weather (except in the case of school cancellation).

D. Participation in Extracurricular Activities and School-Sponsored On-the-Job Training Programs

1. This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled either during or outside the school day and any school-sponsored on-the-job training programs.
2. School-initiated absences will be accepted and participation permitted.
3. A student may not participate in any activity or program if they have an unexcused absence from any class during the day.
4. If a student is suspended from any class, they may not participate in any activity or program that day.
5. If a student is absent from school due to medical reasons, they may be asked to present a physician's statement or a statement from the student's parent

or guardian clearing the student for participation that day. The note must be presented to the coach or advisor before the student participates in the activity or program.

### **III. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ACCOMMODATION**

Reasonable efforts will be made by the school district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the building principal.

### **IV. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY**

1. Copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.
2. The school district will provide annual notice to parents of the school district's policy related to a student's absence from school for religious observance.

### **V. REQUIRED REPORTING**

#### **A. Continuing Truant**

Minnesota Statute section 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minnesota Statute section 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minnesota Statute section 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

#### **B. Reporting Responsibility**

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minnesota Statute section 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the

child at school pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minnesota. Statute section 120A.34;

4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minnesota Statute section 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the district;
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;
7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minnesota Statute Chapter 260C;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 260C.201.

C. Habitual Truant

1. A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days per school year if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days per school year and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.
2. A school administrator shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minnesota Statute Chapter 260A.

***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. § 120A.35 (Absence from School for Religious Observance)  
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(1975)  
*Slocum v. Holton Bd of Educ.*, 429 N.W.2d 607 (Mich. App. Ct. 1988)  
*Campbell v. Bd of Educ. of New Milford*, 475 A.2d 289 (Conn. 1984)  
*Hamer v. Bd of Educ. of Twp High Sch. Dist. No. 113*, 66 Ill. App.3d 7, 383 N.E.2d 231 (1978)  
*Gutierrez v. Sch. Dist. R-1*, 585 P.2d 935 (Co. Ct. App. 1978)  
*Knight v. Bd of Educ.*, 38 Ill. App. 3d 603, 348 N.E.2d 299 (1976)  
*Dorsey v. Bale*, 521 S.W.2d 76 (Ky. 1975)

***Cross References:*** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)