

Kankakee Valley School Corporation

ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY

The Kankakee Valley School Corporation attendance regulations are expressed to create positive attendance habits that will promote self discipline and work ethic throughout life. The Kankakee Valley School Corporation understands that sometimes a student's absence is necessary or unavoidable; however, regular attendance and promptness are essential to good performance in school. Absence from school is often the greatest single cause of poor performance and achievement. Since the learning process is a progressive activity, each day's lesson is built upon those class activities that took place on previous days. Whenever a class is missed, for whatever reasons, that experience can never be completely made-up. Since responsibility is a learned behavior and regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of responsible patterns of behavior, each student attending the Kankakee Valley School Corporation is expected to make every effort possible to be in school every day. The Kankakee Valley School Corporation Attendance Policy is developed with the idea that if a student is not present in school, he/she is not learning. Therefore, the following items have been devoted to providing the student and parent with guidelines as to our attendance procedures and policies.

Indiana Code

IC 20-33-2 Compulsory School Attendance requires children to attend school during the time it is in session until the child graduates or becomes 18 years of age.

IC 20-33-2-27 Compulsory Attendance/Parent's Responsibility: It is unlawful for a parent to fail, neglect or refuse to send his child to a public school for the full term as required under this chapter unless the child is being provided with equivalent instruction as the public school provides.

IC 20-33-2-18 Parent to produce certificate of child's incapacity on demand: If a parent of a student does not send the student to school because of the student's illness or mental or physical incapacity, it is unlawful for the parent to fail or refuse to produce a certificate of the illness or incapacity for an attendance officer not later than six (6) days after the certificate is demanded. The certificate required under this section must be signed by an Indiana physician. (This will have an effect on the student's absence limit.)

IC 20-33-2.5 and IC 20-33-2.5-5 requires schools to hold an attendance conference with the child's parent or legal guardian, teacher, and administrator to collaborate with the school to develop an attendance improvement plan. This meeting will be held when a child has five (5) unexcused absences in a ten (10) week period.

Types of Absences

EXEMPT ABSENCES

An exempt absence is an absence in which the student is excused from school and is NOT to be counted as absent. According to the **IC-20-33-2-14- IC-20.33-2-17.7**, exempt absences are:

- Serving as a page or honoree of the General Assembly
- Serving on the precinct election board or as a helper to a political candidate or party on the day of a municipal, primary or general election
- Serving as a witness in Judicial proceeding
- Serving with the National Guard for no more than 10 days