

Attendance and Absences

Bismarck Public Schools believes that regular school attendance is the joint responsibility of the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s), and it is essential for student success in school. The District shall abide by compulsory attendance requirements in state law for all enrolled students grades K-12 (Administrative Rules FFB-AR). This policy is established for purposes of complying with and enforcing these requirements.

Absences, even with the approval of the parent(s)/guardian(s), which are excessive and/or interfere with the student's educational program, may be interpreted as educational neglect and Child Protection Services may be notified. In addition, district teachers and administrators will comply with compulsory attendance reporting requirements under law (NDCC Ch. 15.1-20).

Definitions

For purposes of compulsory attendance reporting under NDCC 15.1-20:

- *Excused absence* is defined as an absence from school, if that absence is supported by either a verbal or written excuse supplied by the student's parent, teacher, or school administrator; and articulates the type of documentation that may be requested to verify a student's absence.
- *Unexcused absence* is any absence not supported by the verbal or written excuse required for an excused absence.

Verification of Absences

School administration may require applicable documentation to verify an excused absence, including, but not limited to:

1. Medical documentation from an appropriate licensed healthcare provider;
2. A copy of a court summons or subpoena;
3. An obituary for funeral leave;
4. Verification of planned or executed family travel (e.g., a boarding pass);
5. A request from an official at the student's place of worship;

Reporting Procedure

North Dakota law defines what constitutes a compulsory attendance violation. Suspected violations of the compulsory attendance law shall be reported to school administration and investigated in accordance with law. When a compulsory attendance violation is substantiated, the District shall comply with law enforcement reporting requirements under law.

Complementary Documents

- FFR-AR, Student Attendance
- FGDB, Student Handbooks

End of Bismarck Public School District Policy FFB

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