



G.R. Whitfield School

4839 School Road
Grimesland, NC 27837
(252) 752-6614 Fax (252) 752-7484
"Promoting a Culture of Excellence"



Amanda Bailey
Principal

Tiffany Jenkins
Assistant Principal

Educational Opportunity Absence

Pitt County Schools recognizes that certain experiences outside the classroom can provide valuable educational benefits. In accordance with the Pitt County Schools Parents Guide for Student Achievement, students may be granted an excused absence for participation in a valid educational opportunity with **prior approval from the principal**. Examples may include educational travel sponsored by an organization, participation as a legislative or Governor's Page, or other unique learning experiences that cannot reasonably occur outside of the regular school schedule.

To be considered for approval:

- A parent or guardian must submit a written request to the principal **before** the absence occurs.
- The request should clearly describe the educational purpose of the activity and explain why the opportunity cannot occur outside of school hours.
- Supporting documentation (such as an itinerary, agenda, sponsoring organization, or learning objectives) may be requested.
- Student current level of academic performance and current attendance will be reviewed
- **Approval is at the principal's discretion and will be based on the educational merit of the experience and its alignment with Board of Education policy. Approval is not automatic.**

Please note that family vacations, recreational trips, athletic competitions, convenience travel, voluntary service trips, and other activities that do not meet the definition of a valid educational opportunity are generally **not** approved under this policy and will be recorded as unexcused absences.

To minimize disruptions to instruction and required assessments, **Educational Opportunity Absences will not be approved during state or district testing windows or during the last ten (10) school days of the school year.**

Educational Opportunity Absences are intended to recognize exceptional educational experiences that are unavailable outside of the regular school day. They are not intended to provide an excused absence for discretionary travel or voluntary activities, regardless of the sponsoring organization.

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. We appreciate your partnership in ensuring students are present for daily instruction while supporting meaningful educational experiences that align with district policy. If you have questions about whether an activity may qualify, please contact the school office before making travel plans or scheduling an absence.



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Educational Opportunity Absence Request

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Requested Date(s) of Absence: _____ Number of School Days Requested: _____

Destination/Location: _____

Educational Opportunity Description

Name of sponsoring organization (if applicable)

Describe the educational purpose of this experience.

What specific knowledge or skills will your child gain?

Why must this opportunity occur during the regular school year instead of weekends, holidays, or school breaks?



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Supporting Documentation attached:

- ☐ Itinerary
- ☐ Daily Agenda or Schedule
- ☐ Learning Objectives
- ☐ Sponsor Information
- ☐ Registration/Acceptance Information
- ☐ Other _____

Parent Acknowledgement

I understand and acknowledge that:

- ☐ This request has been submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to the requested absence.
- ☐ Approval is **not automatic**.
- ☐ Approval is based upon the educational merit of the experience and Board of Education policy.
- ☐ My child is responsible for completing all missed assignments and assessments.
- ☐ Teachers are not required to provide assignments before the absence.
- ☐ Submission of this request does **not** guarantee an excused absence.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____