

The School Board considers the following urgent reasons to constitute reasonable cause for temporary excusal from school:

- Illness of student.
- Quarantine of student.
- Recovery from accident by student.
- Death in the student's family, limited to five (5) days per occurrence.
- Impassable/hazardous roads.
- Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the student.
- Excused pursuant to a farm or domestic service emergency permit.
- To receive professional health care or therapy services rendered by licensed practitioners of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United States of America.
- Pre-approved educational trips or tours in accordance with Policy 204.2.
- Pre-approved college visits, for students in Grade 11, limited to two (2) days per year and Grade 12, limited to four (4) days per year, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of such visit.
- Suspensions from school.
- All absences occasioned by the observance of the student's religion on a day approved by the Board as a religious holiday shall be excused when requested. Please refer to Policy 204-Excused Absences. No student so excused shall be deprived of an award or eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test or any other schoolwork given on that day. No student shall be granted more than 5 such absences during a single school year.
- Participation in school sponsored activities.
- The Board of Education shall permit a student to be excused for a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H, FFA or combined 4-H and FFA group upon written request prior to the event.
- Exceptionally urgent reasons such as affect the student, but which ordinarily would not include work at home.

**POCONO MOUNTAIN
SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO BOX 200
SWIFTWATER, PA 18370
PHONE No. 570-839-7121**



Pennsylvania school districts shall not discriminate in their educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodation and or grievance procedure may be obtained by contacting the Compliance Officer, in writing, at the Administration Office, Pocono Mountain School District, PO Box 200, Swiftwater, PA 18370 or call (570)839-7121.

**POCONO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
DISTRICT**



**COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
REQUIREMENTS**

The Pocono Mountain School District has partnered with surrounding school districts, Court of Common Pleas Judges, Magisterial District Justices, and Monroe County Children & Youth on a Truancy Task Force Initiative to combat Truancy in our community.

In accordance with State Law, Pocono Mountain School District Board Policy #204 – Attendance supports this initiative.

At this time, the Pocono Mountain School District has implemented procedures district wide for kindergarten through grade twelve.

Compulsory School Age Requirements

The Board requires that school-aged students enrolled in all schools of the PMSD attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by this school district is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. The Board recognizes that if the parent/guardian will not insist that their child take advantage of the free educational opportunities offered, it becomes the duty of the school district and state to require that attendance be enforced within the limits of the law.



Pennsylvania requires all students to attend school no later than age 6 until age 18 or graduation, whichever occurs sooner.

Unlawful Absence – Student(s) 17 years old and under who are absent from school without an excuse.

Every absence after the 18th requires a doctor's note in order to be accepted as excused.

Truancy Procedures

Step 1

When your child accumulates **3 unlawful absences**: A *3-Day Unlawful Absences Notice* will be mailed as well as the *Notice of Right to Request Educational Best Interest Hearing Notice*.

Step 2

When your child accumulates **6 unlawful absences (Habitually Truant)**: Parents/guardians will be asked to participate in a Student Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) with the child, parent/guardian and a school counselor. During this conference, a Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) will be developed for the student. A *6-Day Unlawful Absence Notice* will be mailed to the student's residence along with the completed SAIP. A PMSD truancy consultant may contact you and/or your child.

Beginning December 12, 2025, a child who is habitually truant is prohibited from transferring during the school year to a cyber charter school unless a judge determines that the transfer is in the best interest of the child. (24 P.S. § 13-1333(c.1)) This law applies to habitually truant students transferring from any school to a cyber charter school, not only students transferring from brick-and-mortar schools.

Step 3

A *District Justice Truancy Notice* may be mailed to the student's residence. Parents/guardians and the student will be required to attend a truancy hearing with a Magisterial District Judge. Monroe County Children and Youth may be notified.

Step 4

When your child accumulates **18 total absences**: Child shall now be required to submit a doctor's note for each subsequent medical/health related absence.

ABSENCE NOTES

Absences shall be treated as unlawful until the school district receives an absent note explaining the absence. Notes may be hand-delivered to the school by your child during regular school hours or a parent/guardian can email the absent notes to the school. Notes should include your child's name, date of absence, the reason for the absence and a parent signature. A note must be submitted within **three (3) school days** of the absence.

School Building Attendance Emails

East High School: Ehsattendance@pmsd.org
West High School: Whsattendance@pmsd.org
East Jr. High School: Ejhsattendance@pmsd.org
West Jr. High School: Wjhsattendance@pmsd.org
Swiftwater Intermediate School: Sisattendance@pmsd.org
Clear Run Intermediate School: Crisattendance@pmsd.org
Swiftwater Elementary School: Secattendance@pmsd.org
Clear Run Elementary School: Tecattendance@pmsd.org
Tobyhanna Elementary School: Tecattendance@pmsd.org
PMSD Cyber: cyberattendance@pmsd.org

Pocono Mountain School District Cyber Program

Students who are enrolled in our cyber program are subject to the same district attendance policies. PMSD cyber students receive attendance credit by logging into the AccelerateED LMS (K-5th Grade) or Imagine Edgenuity LMS (6-12th Grade). In order to register a login, students must click on a dashboard course tab and open a module. Students will be marked absent if not logged in for at least 20 minutes each school day. Students can login between 12:00am to 11:59pm. Attendance is recorded the following school day to allow for students to have a flexible schedule. Attending "live" classes does not count for attendance purposes.

Grades K-5th

Students get attendance credit by logging into the Accelerated Education only and must open a Module. They must login for at least 20 minutes every school day. Attending "live" classes **does not** count for attendance purposes.

Grades 6-12th

Students must login to Edgenuity daily to get attendance credit. They will be marked absent if it is not done every school day. Attending "live" classes **does not** count for attendance purposes.

Flexible Instructional Day (FID) Expectations

Student attendance will be determined by verification in each class completion of the daily attendance question, participation in the live-stream lesson, and completing all FID activities/assignments. Students should not report to their physical building on a FID.