

STUDENT AND STAFF ATTENDANCE DURING STATE TOURNAMENTS

BARNESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL
ISD 146

POLICY 602.1
SERIES 600 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear expectations regarding school operations during state tournament events. It emphasizes the district's commitment and recognition of the importance of student participation and community support for these events.

- A participant is a student or staff member directly involved in the state tournament as part of a qualifying team, performance group, or official supervisory role.
- A spectator is any student, staff member, or community member attending the event solely to watch or support, without an official role in the competition. Spectators are not considered participants for attendance purposes.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board reserves the option to cancel school when district participation in a state tournament is deemed to significantly impact students, staff, and instructional operations.

III. SCHOOL OPERATIONS

- A. The district may cancel school when athletic teams or student groups participate in regional or state tournaments.
- B. When school is closed for this purpose:
 - The day may be designated as an instructional make-up day in the school calendar, or
 - The absence of instructional hours may be waived in accordance with state guidelines.
- C. All district services (transportation, food service, Kids Club, etc.) will adjust operations based on the closure plan communicated by the superintendent.

IV. EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR PARTICIPANTS

- A. Students who are members of a qualifying team, pep band, or other official school-sponsored group attending the event will be considered excused.
- B. Participant absences will be considered school-related and will not count toward semester absence limits.

V. EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR SPECTATORS

- A. Students wishing to attend state tournaments as spectators may be excused only if:
 - A parent/guardian notifies the attendance office in advance, and
 - The absence is pre-approved by the building principal.
- B. Spectator absences will be recorded as excused but will count toward the student's semester absence limits, unless the student provides evidence of attendance at the event (e.g., ticket stub, wristband, or other verification).
- C. Spectator absences are discretionary and subject to school approval.

VI. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

Adopted: 12.15.2025

Revised:

Effective: 12.15.2025

STUDENT AND STAFF ATTENDANCE DURING STATE TOURNAMENTS

**BARNESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL
ISD 146**

**POLICY 602.1
SERIES 600 EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- A. Students excused under this policy are responsible for requesting and completing all missed assignments.
- B. Teachers will provide reasonable opportunities for students to complete make-up work in accordance with school guidelines.

VII. STAFF PARTICIPATION AS COACHES/ADVISORS

- A. Staff members serving as head coaches, assistant coaches, advisors, directors (e.g., band), or other official supervisory roles for the qualifying team/group are authorized to attend the tournament as part of their regular assignment.
- B. These absences are considered school-sponsored duties, not personal leave.

VIII. STAFF ATTENDANCE WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS

When school is officially closed for a state tournament, staff attendance (not participating coaches/advisors) will be handled as follows:

- A. Licensed and classified staff may use personal leave or vacation (if applicable) or arrange make-up time at the discretion of the principal or superintendent.
- B. Approval of requests is subject to principal/superintendent discretion and operational needs.

IX. STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE COMMUNICATION

- A. At the beginning of each sport or activities season, the district will share any known Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) state tournament dates with students, families, and staff.
- B. If tournament dates are officially scheduled and published by the MSHSL, they will be included in seasonal activity calendars and communicated by the Activities Director.
- C. This advance communication is intended to help students, families, and staff plan accordingly and minimize disruption to instructional time, personal schedules, family commitments, and work responsibilities.