Policy

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCES

Code **JHE** Issued **11/26**

The board recognizes the educational value of Career and Technical Student Organizations and interscholastic activities. Participation in Career and Technical Student Organizations and interscholastic activities fosters the development of essential, critical thinking, communication, technology, and interpersonal skills through service-learning projects, competitive events, and leadership development, collectively referred to as "experiences." Interscholastic activities provide students with the opportunity to develop teamwork, discipline, and character skills through participation in competitive events and extracurricular activities between other schools/districts.

To support student involvement in these valuable organizations, students academically in good standing may be granted up to 10 days of excused absences per school year to participate in approved Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) experiences or interscholastic activities. Absences associated with participation in approved CTSO experiences or interscholastic activities will be considered lawful. For the purpose of this policy academic good standing is defined as a "c" or better in all classes assigned to a student. Students cannot have more than 5 unlawful absences in a semester.

Student absences in excess of 10 school days may be considered as unlawful under policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses. The board empowers school administration to evaluate the student's attendance and academic progress prior to approval.

Eligible Career and Technical Students Organizations (CTSO) Experiences

Excused absences may be granted for participation in CTSO experiences associated with, but not limited to:

- National and state-level Future Farmers of America events
- 4-H programs
- Business Professionals of America (BPA)
- DECA
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
- HOSA - Future Health Professionals
- SkillsUSA
- Technology Student Association (TSA)

The CTSO experience must be supervised by a certified teacher and must include an assessment of competencies. The teacher is responsible for verifying student participation in the CTSO experience.

Eligible Interscholastic Activities

Excused absences may be granted for participation in interscholastic activities, including but not limited to:

- Middle and High School Athletics and Sports
- Competitive academic competitions

Any competition or activity not expressly related to Spartanburg County School District Four will not be considered as an interscholastic activity.

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Make-up work

A student who misses work due to participation in eligible CTSO experience ***or interscholastic activity*** will be allowed to make up the work missed during the absence as long as the student or their parent/legal guardian makes appropriate arrangements with the teacher(s) within five school days of the student's return to school. The student should complete the make-up work within 10 days after their return to school; however, the teacher may provide additional time to complete the work, to the extent that it is appropriate and reasonable.

Cf. JH

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