

MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ATTENDANCE

ADOPTED: October 14, 1991

REVISED: May 21, 2007

204. ATTENDANCE	
<p>1. Purpose SC 1301 Title 22 Sec. 11.12, 12.1, Pol. 200</p>	<p>The Board of Education requires that school-aged pupils enrolled in the schools of this district attend school regularly in accordance with the laws of the state. The educational program offered by this district is predicated upon the presence of the pupil and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation.</p>
<p>2. Authority SC 1302, 1327, 1329 Title 22 Sec. 11.11, 11.23, 11.25, 11.41, 12.1</p>	<p>The Board shall require attendance of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session, except that a principal or teacher may excuse a student for temporary absences when s/he receives satisfactory evidence of such mental, physical, or other urgent conditions which may reasonably cause the student's absence.</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 11.21</p>	<p>The Board considers the following conditions to constitute reasonable cause for absence from school: illness, quarantine, required court attendance, death in family, and preapproved educational trips.</p>
<p>SC 1327, 1329 Title 22 Sec. 11.8, 11.22, 11.23, 11.28 Pol. 115, 117, 118</p>	<p>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, and 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 given on the religious holiday.</p>
<p>SC 510, 1318</p>	<p>Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board, at the place where the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction or health care, at the place where the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised work-study program, or at home when the student is receiving approved homebound instruction.</p>
	<p>Repeated infractions of Board policy requiring the attendance of enrolled students may constitute such misconduct and disobedience as to warrant the suspension or expulsion of the student from the regular school program.</p>

	<p>It shall be the policy of the Board to consider the effectiveness and appropriateness to the pupil's needs of the educational program that is offered each child who habitually and repeatedly absents him/herself from such program.</p>
<p>SC 1318</p>	<p>The Board authorizes the Superintendent to suspend a student from a particular class or from school in accordance with the policies of the Board, if sincere efforts by the staff and parents cannot rectify the pattern of absence. The Superintendent is authorized to establish the criteria to implement this policy.</p>
	<p>The Board shall excuse the following students from the requirements of attendance at the schools of this district:</p>
<p>SC 1330</p>	<p>1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons so urgent as to preclude regular attendance.</p>
<p>Title 22 Sec. 11.5, 11.32</p>	<p>2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught, except that such students and students attending.</p>
<p>SC 1327</p>	<p>3. College who are also enrolled part-time in the schools of this district shall be counted as being in attendance in this district.</p>
<p>SC 1330</p>	<p>4. Students sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age whose enrollments in a private trade or business school have been approved.</p>
<p>SC 1330 Title 22 Sec. 11.28</p>	<p>5. Children fifteen (15) years of age, and fourteen (14) years of age who have completed fifth grade, who are engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.</p>
	<p>6. Children sixteen (16) years of age regularly employed during the school session and holding a lawfully issued employment certificate.</p>
<p>SC 1332, 1333</p>	<p>7. Students who are being home schooled in conformity with state regulations pertaining to home schooling.</p> <p>The Board may report to appropriate authorities infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of seventeen (17). The Board shall issue notice to those parents/guardians who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions of the statute will be prosecuted.</p>

<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.1, 11.2, 11.3</p> <p>SC 1332, 1339</p> <p>SC 1333, 1338, 1154 Title 22 Sec. 11.24</p>	<p>The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the attendance of students which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure a school session which is in conformity with requirements of the rules of the State Board. 2. Govern the keeping of attendance records in accordance with rules of the State Board. 3. Identify the habitual truant, investigate the cause(s) of his/her behavior, and consider modification of his/her educational program to meet particular needs and interests. 4. Ensure that students absent for any approved reason have an opportunity to make up work they missed. 5. Issue written notice to any parent/guardian who fails to comply with the compulsory attendance statute within three (3) days of any proceeding brought under that statute. Such notice shall inform the parent/guardian of the date(s) on which the absence occurred, that the absence was unexcused and in violation of law, that the parent/guardian must be so notified and informed of his/her liability under law for the absence of the student, and that further violation during the school term will be prosecuted without notice. 6. Upon written request of the parents/guardians, release from attendance a student participating in a religious instruction program acknowledged by the Board. Such instruction shall not require the child's absence from school for more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year, and its organizers must inform the Board of the child's attendance record. The Board shall not provide transportation to religious instruction. <p>Teachers, in conjunction with the administration, have the option of denying credit to any student who has accumulated twenty-five (25) absences or more from a given course. The only excused absences will be school related, such as Student Council, music lessons, athletic contests, and the like. Special consideration will be given to students who are ill for an extended period of time and are unable to attend school.</p>
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2. The event is held at a time scheduled by an organization and not in control of the student/participant.
3. The student has demonstrated exceptional ability and aptitude in the designated activity.
4. The student is in good standing with the school.
5. The student is prepared to do school work in advance or in a make-up arrangement.
6. Notice of the student's intentions to participate in the designated activity must be signed by the parent/guardian and received by the school at least one (1) week in advance of the activity.
7. Absences less than two (2) hours will not be counted against student attendance for the day.

The school district reserves the right to approve/disapprove all requests for excused absences under these guidelines.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1301, 1302, 1318, 1327, 1329, 1330, 1332, 1333, 1338, 1339, 1354, 1546

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.5, 11.8, 11.11, 11.12, 11.21, 11.22, 11.23, 11.24, 11.25, 11.26, 11.28, 11.32, 11.34, 11.41, 12.1

Board Policy – 115, 117, 118, 200, 204.1