

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Absences for the following reasons shall be considered as excused:

- A. Personal illness.
- B. Serious illness or death of a family member.
- C. Funeral.
- D. Medical and dental appointments that cannot be arranged during non-school hours.
- E. Unusual or emergency situations at home.
- F. Religious holidays and activities.
- G. Authorized school-sponsored activities.
- H. Approved college visits.
- I. Acts of God.
- J. Quarantine.
- K. Out-of-state travel, not to exceed four (4) days per school year, for participation in an enrichment activity approved by the Board of Education or an extracurricular activity, defined as a pupil activity program operated by the District but not included in a graded course of study.
- L. At the Superintendent's discretion, a visit with a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Public Health Service and who has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

An absence for any reason other than those listed above shall be classified as unexcused.

A student shall have the opportunity to make up school work missed due to an excused absence; however, it shall be the responsibility of the student to initiate a make-up procedure and schedule with his or her teacher(s). All make-up work shall be completed within a reasonable time following the excused absence. A student shall receive full credit for school work made up pursuant to an excused absence.

The principal or his or her designee may request written verification of a student's illness from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state in the event of frequent or extended absences attributed to personal illness.

A student must be in attendance at school for half of the school day in order to participate in any school-sponsored activity that is conducted on that day; in cases of emergency the principal or his/her designee may grant an exception to this limitation.

Attendance and Loss of Driving Privileges

A student shall be considered an habitual absenteeism problem by state law when, in spite of warnings and/or his/her parent's, guardian's or custodian's efforts to ensure attendance, he/she has accumulated during a semester ten (10) consecutive school days or fifteen (15) total school days of unexcused absence.

Whenever any student under the age of eighteen (18) has more than ten (10) consecutive school days or at least fifteen (15) total school days of unexcused absence, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to inform the student and his/her parents, guardian, or custodian of the attendance record and the District's intent and obligation to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the Judge of the Juvenile Court in writing of the student's excessive absenteeism (O.R.C. §3321.13 (B)(2)).

After receiving such information from the Superintendent, O.R.C. §4507.061 requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to suspend the temporary instruction permit or driver's license of the student who is the subject of the notice. If a temporary permit or license has not been issued for that student, the Registrar, under current law, is prohibited from issuing a temporary permit or a license. Any denial of driving privileges would remain in effect until the student reaches eighteen (18) or until the denial of driving privileges is terminated for another reason allowable under the Ohio Law.

In accordance with Ohio Law, a student whose driving privileges have been denied can file a petition with the juvenile court in whose jurisdiction he/she resides.

Parental Education Program

In accordance with Ohio Law, the Board may require the parent, guardian or custodian of any student who is suspended or expelled from school or who is truant (absent without legitimate or legal excuse) or habitually absent (unexcused absences in excess of 10 consecutive days or 15 days per year) from school to attend a parental education or training program designed to encourage parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly. If the parent fails to attend the program, he/she may be charged with a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, punishable by a maximum fine of \$250 and imprisonment of up to 30 days. This policy shall be posted in a central location in all East Cleveland City school buildings, and shall be made available to students and their parents or guardians upon request (O.R.C. §3313.663).

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3301.60; 3321.041; 3321.13

Adopted: August 12, 2014