

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The regular school attendance of a child of school age is required by state law. Regular school attendance is essential for success in school; therefore, absences shall be excused only for necessary and important reasons. Such reasons include but are not limited to ~~those reasons approved by the school administration such as,~~ illness, injury, bereavement of a family member, other family emergencies, and observance of major religious holidays of the family's faith or religious instruction and tribal obligations. For religious instruction and tribal obligations, written consent of a parent and approval of the principal are required. A student may be excused for parent or doctor authorized medical reasons. Time shall be provided for the student to make up the work.

An unexcused absence means an absence from a class or school day (half of the student's approved program) for which the student does not have an allowable excuse.

Absent means not in attendance for a class or school day for any reason, excused or not excused except for interscholastic extracurricular activities.

In the event of a necessary absence known in advance, the parent is expected to inform the school; if the absence is caused by emergency, such as illness or injury, the parent is expected to telephone the school office, if possible. When a student returns to school following an absence, a note of explanation from the parent is required, unless the parent notified the school in advance of the absence.

School administrators are authorized to excuse students from school for necessary and justifiable reason as determined from the circumstances surrounding the cause of the absence.

Adopted: date of manual adoption

LEGAL REF.: ~~22-12-2 NMSA (1978)~~
~~22-12-8 NMSA (1978)~~
22-12A-6 NMSA
22-12A-9 NMSA

CROSS REF.: JE - Student Attendance
JHB - Truancy

REGULATION**REGULATION****STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES****When Absent from School**

If the parent(s)/guardian(s) have a telephone and provide the contact number to the school, the school may make a reasonable effort to give notification of absence within three (3) hours of the beginning of the school day if the school has not received confirmation of the student's absence. No right of being informed is established by this direction to staff.

State law mandates that parents are responsible for children to be in attendance during the period when school is in session. Therefore, when a student is absent, the parent shall call the school on or before the day of the absence in order to advise the school as to the reason for the absence if a telephone is available. When it is impossible to call on the day of the absence, the school should be notified on the morning the student returns by signed parental note, in time for the student to obtain an admission approval prior to class time. All absences not verified by parental or administrative authorization will be considered unexcused.

If a parent does not have access to a phone, either at home or at work, a note will be accepted for verification purposes.

For absences greater than one (1) day in length, the school should be notified each day of the absence.

If a student is absent for three (3) or more successive school days, the school shall contact the student's parents, legal guardian or custodian by telephone, if possible, no later than the close of school on the school day next succeeding the three-day period. A written notice shall be dispatched if telephone contact has not been made. The provisions of this section do not apply to any absence if the parent, legal guardian or custodian, prior to the end of the three-day period, has contacted the school to explain the absence.

All personnel will solicit cooperation from parents in the matter of school attendance and punctuality, particularly in regard to the following:

- The scheduling of medical and dental appointments after school hours except in cases of emergency.
- The scheduling of family vacations during school vacation and recess periods.

The school may require an appointment card or a letter from a hospital or clinic when the parent has not notified the school of an appointment of a medical or dental nature.