

Teton School District No. 401
STUDENTS 3050 Attendance Policy

Compulsory Attendance

According to Idaho Educational Statute 33-202, all children between the age of seven (7) and sixteen (16) years of age, are required to attend school. This may include public, public charter, private, parochial or home schools either in-person in a virtual/online classroom. Idaho Educational Statute 33-204 allows for exemption from compulsory attendance due to physical, mental, or emotional needs that are confirmed by a licensed physician or psychiatrist.

Regular School Attendance

Under the Office for Civil Rights, student absence is defined as, “not physically on school grounds and not participating in instruction or instruction-related activities at an approved off-grounds location for at least half the school day”.

Absences from school are recorded by school personnel throughout the school day. Parents will be notified of absences from school through the student information system unless absences are verified by parents the morning of the absence or prior to the absence occurring.

Student attendance is a foundation of academic success. Students who don't attend regularly may not perform at their full potential. Being in class and receiving instruction are fundamental to their success. The primary responsibility for attendance rests upon the student, with the help of the parent/guardian.

Students are expected to attend at least ninety percent (90%) of scheduled class time. If a student does not attend at least ninety percent (90%) of the time a class is in session, the student is at risk of academic failure and possible social-emotional difficulties.

Important Definitions

Absences from school occur for many reasons. Additional definitions are important for enforcing attendance expectations and policies.

Verified Absence

A verified absence occurs when a parent/guardian alerts the school to a student's absence. Parents are responsible for contacting the school by phone on the day of the absence and/or providing a written verification when the student returns. Verification must be turned in to the school within three (3) business days of the absence. If verification is not submitted within three (3) business days, the absence will remain as coded. A verified absence does not necessarily mean it is excused under district policy.

District Excused Absence

The ONLY absences that are considered District Excused Absences are the following:

- A. Those that occur due to school-sponsored activities. Absence as a result of students participating in school-sponsored activities, including athletic events, music-related events, academic trips, and other events deemed co-curricular;
- B. Bereavement in the immediate family (grandmother, grandfather, father, mother, sister, brother).
- C. Subpoenas to appear in court or court-ordered absences,
- D. School discipline-related absences
- E. Illness or hospitalization verified by a doctor's statement;
- F. Students participating in State, regional, and/or national competitions that meet grade eligibility requirements, for example, Nordic and downhill skiers' race days, not practice days;

- G. Students absent for medical, dental, or counseling appointments, accompanied by notes from the medical professional or counselor;
- H. Prior Authorized Absences with the building principal that do not put a child at risk of not meeting grade level standards and submission of agreed-upon make-up work

Truancy

Truancy is defined as a student who is absent from school without proper authorization. An absence that occurs without parent/guardian/adult student verification will be considered a truancy. District excused absences and verified absences are not considered truanies.

Chronic Absenteeism

A student is considered chronically absent when absent from school 10% or more of school days within an academic year. The impacts of chronic absenteeism include reduced performance, higher dropout rates, decreased social opportunities, and poor workplace readiness skills. **Whether an absence is district excused, verified, or truant, if a student is not at school, this is considered an absence because the student is not present for instruction.** All absences from school are counted toward chronic absenteeism rates.

Habitual Truancy

Habitual Truancy, defined by Idaho Statute 33-206, refers to a student who has repeatedly violated attendance regulations established by the board, or a parent or guardian who fails or refuses to present the child for instruction. A student is considered truant when their absence is unverified, lacks prior verification, and/or appropriate documentation to support an absence from school.

When a student has been truant from school 10% or more of school days, they will be considered Habitually Truant. Habitually truant students shall be referred to juvenile corrections if they were between the ages of 7 and 16 at the time of the absences pursuant to Idaho Statute 20-510.

Policy History:

Adopted on: July 12, 2010

Revised on: June 11, 2018

Revised on: December 16, 2024

Revised on: April 14, 2025

Reference: [Attendance and Enrollment Handbook - Idaho State Department of Education](#)