

Teton School District No. 401

STUDENTS 3050

Attendance Policy Regular school attendance is essential to the positive learning experience of the student. The main responsibility for attendance rests upon the student with the help of the parent/guardian. Whenever the student is absent from the classroom for reasons other than school-related activities, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to verify the absence to the school's satisfaction.

90% Attendance

Student attendance is extremely important to student academic success. It is expected that a student will be in attendance at least ninety percent (90%) of the time that each class is taught. If a student is not in attendance at least ninety percent (90%) of the time a class is in session the Board of Trustees may deny promotion to the next grade or credit for the class, even if the student earned a passing grade. If a student is absent more than 5 times in a class at Teton High School they will violate the 90% rule and credit may be lost even if the student is receiving a passing grade. Each student's unique absence will be dealt with by Teton High School administration.

The ONLY absences that WILL NOT be used in calculating the attendance record are:

- A. Those that occur due to school-sponsored activities, since these are considered an equivalent educational experience. These exemptions will apply to students participating in sports events, cheerleading, music related events, FFA trips, academic field trips, and others deemed co-curricular.
- B. Bereavement in the immediate family (grandmother, grandfather, father, mother, sister, brother). Any extended bereavement may be reviewed by the Attendance Board;
- C. Subpoenas to appear in court or court-ordered, out-of-district placements for special services;
- D. Illness or hospitalization verified by a doctor's statement.
- E. State, regional, and national competitions (see grade eligibility requirement) for example: (Nordic and downhill skiers)
- F. Students absented for medical, dental or counseling accompanied with notes from the medical professional or counselor.
- G. Authorized absences from the school

Absences which will be counted in the 90% limit will include such areas as: family trips, work days, vacations, visiting friends or relatives, watching tournaments when school is not participating and not authorized from the school, hair, or photography appointments, skiing, hunting, court appearances, attending concerts, shopping, or any others not mentioned which are unacceptable to the board of trustees or designee.

Excused Absences:

It is the parent's responsibility to contact the school either by phone on the day of the absence and/or by providing a written excuse when the student returns to school. If a written excuse is not presented on the day of the student's return to school, the absence will be unexcused. If a valid written excuse is supplied the next school day, the absence will be changed to excused. The school may require medical verification for prolonged absences or medical appointments.

Unexcused Absences:

An unexcused absence occurs when a student is not in the assigned class for causes other than those allowable under this policy. An unexcused absence is one that occurs when the parent did not present just cause or arrange the absence with the school as prescribed. Make-up is allowed for unexcused absences only at the discretion of the teacher or building principal. If, in the opinion of the building administrator, unexcused absences are excessive or flagrant a student may be charged with being truant.

Truancy:

A truant is defined as a student who is absent from school without proper authorization. An unauthorized absence is deemed a truancy by a building administrator. A student who is deemed truant will not be allowed make-up privileges. The following steps will be taken by the building administrator for students who are judged to be truant:

1. First Offense - The student and his/her parent will be notified by the building administrator. A consequence may be assigned.
2. Second Offense - The student and his/her parent will be notified. A conference will be held. A consequence will be assigned.
3. Third Offense - The student and his/her parent will be notified. A conference will be held with student, parent, counselor, and principal. Student will be assigned a consequence.
4. Fourth and Following Offenses - The student and his/her parent will be required to meet with District Attendance Committee. The District Attendance Committee (school administration, superintendent, and or board of trustees) may recommend any of the following: probation, transfer, alternative school, exclusion for the remainder of the grading period, or expulsion.

A referral to law enforcement and the judicial system may happen at any time according to Idaho and county laws and procedures.

90% Attendance Appeal Process

Those students who fail to meet the ninety percent (90%) attendance rule, and who are denied promotion or course credit, may appeal for reconsideration to the administration of the building they attend. An adverse opinion from the administration may be appealed to the Superintendent within ten calendar days of the administration decision. An adverse opinion from the Superintendent may be

appealed to the Board of Trustees within 10 days of the Superintendent's decision. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final and binding.

Policy History:

Adopted on: July 12, 2010

Revised on: June 11, 2018