

Past District Practice vs. New Law

Past District Practice: Absences recorded by half day or full day

New Law: Absences recorded by hour

Past District Practice: Doctor appointments, where a student missed two (2) hours or less of school, did not count as an absence for the student.

New Law: All instructional time missed counts as an absence. The only time during the school day that does not count as instructional time is a student's lunch period.

Past District Practice: Letter sent to parent/guardian(s) when a student was absent, without *legitimate excuse, for ten (10) days

New Law: Letter sent to parent/guardian(s) when a student misses thirty-eight (38) hours in a month or sixty-five (65) hours in a year, with or without a *legitimate excuse.

New Law: A student who misses thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in a month, or seventy-two (72) hours in a school year without a *legitimate excuse is considered habitually truant and is referred to an Absence Intervention Team.

*Legitimate excuse = excused absence

TERMINOLOGY

The following is the terminology our district will use:

Excused Absence: The Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school. An excused absence is due to :

1. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
2. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
3. quarantine of the home
4. death in the family
5. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent/guardian(s)
6. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
7. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction) to participate in a district- approved enrichment or extracurricular activity
8. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
9. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751



Please note: A maximum of five school days per school year will be excused for vacation. A vacation request must be submitted prior to the vacation.

Unexcused Absence: An unexcused absence occurs when a parent/guardian notifies the school of an absence but it does not fall into one (1) of the categories listed under *Excused Absence*.

Truant: Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse is considered truant.

Tardy: A student who is not in his/her assigned location within fifteen minutes of the start of the school day will be considered and time missed from class will be counted against hours of attendance.

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