

**Student Absences and Excuses**

A student's contribution to and achievement in class are directly related to attendance. Both students and parents must understand that students miss a vital portion of their education when they are absent from school.

While it is true that written work can be completed for make-up, class instruction, or presentations, discussions, some audio-visual presentations, or student-teacher interaction can never be made up.

Certain absences of students will be excused by the principal on receipt of a written, signed explanation from the parent or guardian. These absences will include:

1. Personal Illness or quarantine
2. Bereavement or Serious Illness in Student's Family
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child
4. For observance of major religious holidays
5. School Sanctioned Events
6. Medical Appointments
7. Vacation Trips with Prior Notice
8. Other Absences will be excused with the discretion of the administration

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator. Also with such approval, students may be excused from school attendance for up to five days each term for attendance at a state or nationally recognized youth program of educational value.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable. Any absence other than excused absence is considered truancy.

**Release of Pupils During School**

Pupils may not be released from school without the prior approval of the Principal or Head Teacher. No student will be released from school to go with any person unless the principal or designee is satisfied that the person requesting to take a child has reason and authority to take the child.

**Senior Class Privileges**

Seniors in high school are only a few weeks from assuming responsibilities as adults. In order to assist them in preparing for their adult responsibility of budgeting time, the Board authorizes the administration to annually develop a plan for "senior privileges" and to present the plan to the Board for its approval.

Legal References: SDCL 13-27-6; 13-27-6.1; 13-27-7; 13-27-8; 13-27-9

Adopted: September 11, 1989

Revised: May 12, 1997; January 11, 2010; July 9, 2012