

Attendance Policy

The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual child. The regular contact of the students with one another in the classroom and their participation in instructional activities under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose. This is an established principle of education which underlies and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in this and every other state in the nation. The good things that schools have to offer can only be presented to students who are in attendance. With continued emphasis regarding Excellence in Education, all parties involved in attendance can better strive for quality in the classroom. Attendance reflects a student's dependability and is a significant factor on his/her permanent record. Future employers are as much concerned about punctuality and dependability as they are about academic record. School success, scholarship, and job opportunity are greatly affected by a good attendance record.

Having established the importance of regular attendance as a base for a good education, we must also consider the rights and responsibilities of students, parents, and teachers in regard to this attendance philosophy.

STUDENTS

Students have a right to be involved in a meaningful program in attendance at school. They will be able to make up work missed because of an absence for a valid reason. At the same time, students have a responsibility to comply with school attendance rules and to make a reasonable effort to progress in the school program.

PARENTS

Parents are to keep the school informed about their child's absence. They also have a right to keep the student out of school for illness or other valid reasons. Parents are expected to comply with state and local school laws and rules regarding school attendance.

TEACHERS

Teachers have a right to expect regular attendance from their students. Teachers should not be expected to perform burdensome work as a result of unjustifiable student absences. Teachers should assist students with make-up work whenever absences have been excused.

The State of Montana has made education compulsory for all children from the ages of 7 to 16 years of age. Therefore, absence from school without adequate reason is illegal, and parents are in violation of the law.

Policy History:

Adopted on: June 1999

Revised on: