

## Policy JH Student Absences and Excuses

Issued 4/97

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for allowing and excusing student absences.

The board believes that attendance is a key factor in student achievement. Any absence from school represents an educational loss to the student. However, the board recognizes that some absences are unavoidable.

In order to receive credit for a high school course, a student must attend at least 85 days (for a 90-day semester course) or 170 days (for a 180-day year course) in order to receive credit. The board may grant approval of excessive absences in accordance with board policy.

Any student who misses school must present a written excuse, signed by his/her parent/legal guardian. The excuse will contain such other information as directed by the administration. The school administration will keep all excuses confidential.

If a student fails to bring a valid excuse to school, he/she will automatically receive an unexcused absence. If a student brings a false (or forged) excuse, his/her teacher must refer the student to the school administration for appropriate action.

The district will consider students lawfully absent under the following circumstances.

- They are ill and their attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
- There is a death or serious illness in their immediate family.
- There is a recognized religious holiday of their faith.

The district will consider students unlawfully absent under the following circumstances.

- They are willfully absent from school without the knowledge of their parents/legal guardians.
- They are absent without acceptable cause with the knowledge of their parents/legal guardians.

Adopted 1/5/85; Revised 8/21/90, 4/21/97

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 59-65-90](#) - State Board to establish rules and regulations defining lawful and unlawful absences.

State Board of Education Regulations:

[R-43-274](#) - Student attendance.

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**School District of Fairfield County**