

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee does recognize that parents of children attending our schools have special rights as well as responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law.

Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine;
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family;
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child; or
4. For observance of major religious holidays.

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

A student's understanding of the importance of day to day school work is an important factor in the shaping of the student's character. Parents can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly.

Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence and tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

Each principal will notify a student's parent/guardian within three (3) days of the student's absence in the event the parent (s)/guardian (s) has not informed the school of the absence.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified when a student has at least five (5) days in which the student has missed two (2) or more unexcused classes/periods or who has five (5) or more unexcused absences in the school year. A reasonable effort will be made to schedule a meeting with the building principal or designee, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the student to develop an action plan to improve the student's attendance. The action steps shall be developed jointly and agreed upon by the building principal or designee, the student and the student's parent or guardian and with input from other relevant school personnel and officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing and nonprofit agencies.

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.

Makeup work for classes missed while a student is absent must be made up within the timelines arranged with the teacher. Parents/guardians may request work only if their child is absent three (3) or more consecutive days from school. Otherwise, the student should collect missing work upon return.

In any case of extended absences, the Milton Public Schools will work closely with parents/guardians and teachers with regard to providing students the opportunity to make up missed work.

SOURCE: MASC February 2019

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 76:1; 76:1B; 76:16; 76:18; 76:20

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