

**ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES**

Connecticut State law requires parents to cause their children to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. It has been well demonstrated that regular attendance is a key factor in the success a student achieves in school. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each child. A student should not be absent from school without the parent's or guardian's knowledge and consent.

An absence shall be considered "excused" when a child does not attend school due to:

- a. Reasons of student health, including student illness, incapacity or doctor's visits. The district reserves the right to require a physician or other appropriate certification for absences in excess of five consecutive days or a total of fifteen days in any school year.
- b. Religious obligation.
- c. Court appearance.
- d. Death in family.
- e. Approved school activities.
- f. Suspension or expulsion.
- g. Limited absence from school with parental consent.

Explanations for all absences, whether excused or unexcused, should be submitted to school officials by the child's parent or guardian.

A child age five to eighteen, whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces (1) who has been called for duty, or (2) who is on leave from or has immediately returned from deployment, shall be granted ten (10) days of excused absences in any school year to visit with their parent or legal guardian. The Board may extend additional absences in connection with such visits.

Board policy with respect to unexcused absences stresses prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences. The Board follows Connecticut law as outlined in Truancy Policy #5113.2.

The administration shall establish regulations to carry out the intent of the policy in a manner which is in harmony with the law.

**STUDENTS**

**# 5113(b)**

Legal Reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184 Duties of parents. (re: regular attendance of student in school)  
Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general.

Litchfield Board of Education

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