
MEMORANDUM

TO: TONY WATTS, SUPERINTENDENT

FROM: JENNIFER STEWART, DPP

SUBJECT: POLICY 09.123 COVID WAIVER

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2020

CC: COL. WILLS, COURT LIAISON

During the 2020-2021 school year the Director of Pupil Personnel will report participation rates monthly to the Newport Independent Board of Education. Participation rates will also be reported in October, January, and July to the Kentucky Department of Education. Adjustment of current attendance procedures will include hybrid and virtual learning models through a Blended Learning Plan as approved by the Newport Independent Board of Education.

All Newport students are expected to attend school each day as assigned through our Blended Learning Plan. All Attendance-Truancy laws and regulations remain active for the 2020-21 school year.

It is my recommendation to waive the medical excuse limit in Policy 09.123 for the 2020-2021 school year for all legitimate medical excuses. Student health, welfare, and safety receives priority consideration by the Board. In addition, it is my recommendation to waive the limit of Principal excused office notes for the 2020-2021 school year, if, in their judgment, an excused absence is warranted.

These recommendations are for your review and potential consideration by the Newport Board of Education.

Potential Motion if Superintendent Approved:

Motion to waive the medical and Principal excuse limit in Policy 09.123 for the 2020-2021 school year

Attachments:

Newport Independent Board Policy 09.123

Newport Independent Code of Conduct 2020-2021

Absences and Excuses

Pupils are required to attend regularly and punctually the school in which they are enrolled. Recording of absences and tardies shall be made in compliance with the requirements of 702 KAR 007:125.¹

TRUANCY DEFINED

Any student who has attained the age of six (6), but has not reached his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday, who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) days or more, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) days or more, is a truant.

Any student enrolled in a public school who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, but has not reached his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday, who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.

Any student who has been reported as a truant two (2) or more times is an habitual truant.

For the purposes of establishing a student's status as a truant, a student's attendance record is cumulative for an entire school year. When students transfer from one Kentucky district to another, attendance information from the previous district shall become part of their official attendance record for that school year.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

An excused absence or tardiness is one for which work may be made up, such as:

1. Death or severe illness in the pupil's immediate family,
2. Illness of the pupil,
3. Religious holidays and practices,
4. One (1) day for attendance at the Kentucky State Fair,
5. Documented military leave,
6. One (1) day prior to departure of parent/guardian called to active military duty,
7. One (1) day upon the return of parent/guardian from active military duty,
8. Visitation for up to ten (10) days with the student's parent, de facto custodian, or person with legal custody who, while on active military duty stationed outside of the country, is granted rest and recuperation leave,
9. Ten (10) days for students attending basic training required by a branch of the United States Armed Forces, or
10. Other valid reasons as determined by the Principal, including trips qualifying as educational enhancement opportunities.

Students shall be granted an excused absence for up to ten (10) school days to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity determined by the Principal to be of significant educational value. This opportunity may include, but not be limited to, participation in an educational foreign exchange program or an intensive instructional, experiential, or performance program in one (1) of the core curriculum subjects of English, science, mathematics, social studies, foreign language, and the arts.

Unless the Principal determines that extenuating circumstances exist, requests for date(s) falling within State or District testing periods shall not be granted.

Absences and Excuses**EXCUSED ABSENCES (CONTINUED)**

The Principal's determination may be appealed to the Superintendent/designee whose decision may then be appealed to the Board under its grievance policy and procedures.

Students receiving an excused absence under this section shall have the opportunity to make up school work missed and shall not have their class grades adversely affected for lack of class attendance or class participation due to the excused absence.

SCHOOL HANDBOOKS

Each school handbook shall include specific attendance requirements.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Work may be made up for unexcused absences at the discretion of the teacher involved.

SUSPENSION

Projects or homework assigned prior to suspension shall be accepted for credit. Students shall be responsible for submitting assignments due during the time of the suspension.

Long-term projects assigned during the suspension and due at a later date shall be accepted.

Work assigned and due during suspension shall only be accepted at the Principal's discretion.

REFERENCES:

¹702 KAR 007:125

KRS 36.396, KRS 38.470, KRS 40.366

KRS 158.070, KRS 158.183, KRS 158.293, KRS 158.294

KRS 159.035, KRS 159.140, KRS 159.150, KRS 159.180

OAG 76-566, OAG 79-68, OAG 79-539, OAG 91-79, OAG 96-28

RELATED POLICIES:

09.111, 09.122, 09.4281

09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)

Adopted/Amended: 7/27/2016

Order #: 682