

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

I. PHILOSOPHY

Regular school attendance is one of the most valuable records a student can develop during his school career. Attendance and promptness indicate strength of character which is essential to successful employment and efficiency as an adult.

Frequent absences of pupils from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained, even by extra after-school instruction. The school cannot teach pupils who are not present. 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.

Parent conferences and communication with school administration, teachers, and counselors are essential. A positive and cooperative effort by parents and school should prevent excessive absence and the resulting consequences.

II. ATTENDANCE

A. Compulsory School Attendance State Statute – 118.15 (1) (a)

Unless the child has a legal excuse or has graduated from high school, any person having under control a child who is between the ages of 6 and 18 years, shall cause such child to attend school regularly during the full period and hours, religious holidays excepted, that the public or private school in which such child should be enrolled is in session until the end of the school term, quarter, or semester of the school year in which the child becomes 18 years of age.

B. Students of the School District of Colby will be legally excused from school for the following reasons:

1. Evidence that the student is not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school. (A written statement from a physician or other provider may be requested to verify illness.)
2. Funerals and religious services as requested by the parents.
3. Medical, dental, chiropractic, optometry or other valid professional or court appointments that could not be scheduled outside of the regular school day.
4. Family emergency in the immediate family.
5. A quarantine as imposed by a public health officer.
6. Approved school activities during class time.
7. A planned and/or anticipated absence as outlined in state law allows a parent or guardian to excuse a child for up to ten days in a school year for any reason. The law requires the parent to excuse the child in **writing** prior to the absence.
8. The Principal may allow up to 8 additional pre-excused parental absences (total of 18, which is 10% of a school year), if a student has met the following conditions;
 - a) No unexcused absences
 - b) No unserved detentions or a suspension in a previous quarter

APPROVED: 10/19/1998

REVISED: 01/19/2004

REVISED: 12/17/2018

Page 1 of 2

- c) The student must have a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA on the last official reporting period.

Anytime a student misses a class for any reason, that student must make arrangements with the teacher whose class has been missed to make up all work to the satisfaction of that teacher.

Failure to make up all work to the satisfaction of that teacher will result in either an incomplete, a failure, or no credit. One (1) day will be allowed for make up for each day of school missed. Students may not have their grades reduced in a class solely as a consequence of being absent from school.

- C. The superintendent of schools or his designee shall be the truancy officer of the district. Truancy will be reported and handled in compliance with State Statute 118.16., 118.16 (1) (c) “Habitual Truant” as defined by state law means any pupil who is absent without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five or more school days during a semester. “Truancy” means absence of part or all of one or more days from school during which the school attendance officer, principal, or teacher has not been notified of the legal cause of such absence by the parent or guardian of the absent pupil, and also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of s. 118.15.
- D. Teachers as prescribed under State Statute 118.18 shall keep accurate and daily attendance records of all students under his/her charge.
- E. As a consequence of truancy, students may be assigned detention, in-school suspension, or directed study conditions with a teacher/supervisor to remedy this behavior. Truancy is also governed by municipal ordinance.