

Students

Attendance, Excused Absences, Dismissal Precautions

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The Superintendent shall ensure that information concerning attendance, absences, and early dismissals will be contained in each school's parent-student handbook.

Attendance

Connecticut state law requires parents/guardians to cause their children to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Learning experiences that occur in the classroom are meaningful and essential components of the learning process. Time lost from class tends to be irretrievable in terms of opportunity for instructional interaction. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each student. A student should not be absent from school without the parents' or guardian's knowledge and consent.

Absences

An absence shall be considered "excused" when a student does not attend school due to illness or injury, death in the immediate family, religious obligation, an emergency, or other exceptional circumstances. Written excuse for such absences should be submitted to school officials by the child's parent or guardian. All other absences, with or without written explanation, shall be considered unexcused.

Requests for Early Dismissal

Request for release of a student during the school day must be handled by the administration to ensure maximum provisions for the student's safety and welfare.

Parents/guardians or designee requesting dismissal of a student before the end of the normal school day must submit in advance to the designated school personnel, a written request indicating the day and time for which the early dismissal is requested. The designated adult for the student in grades K-8 must come into the school office to pick up and sign out the student. Early dismissal should be requested only in emergency or unusual situations.

Religious-based Absences/Early Dismissals

Students may be released for days of religious observance upon written request by their legal guardian or adult responsible for the student.

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Precautions

No student may be released from school to anyone other than the parent, guardian or child protective services personnel and law enforcement officers, pursuant to law, unless the name of the individual seeking release of the student appears on a list provided by the parent or guardian.

A student may be released to either parent unless a custodial parent supplies the building principal with a certified copy of a court order or divorce decree to the contrary.

The Superintendent of Schools shall develop procedures to enable parents and guardians to amend the list of persons authorized to obtain the release of their children.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-184 Duties of parents.

10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy in general.

10-202e-f Policy on dropout prevention and grant program.

10-22 I (b) Board of education to prescribe rules.

Campbell v New Milford, 193 Conn 93 (1984).