

## **State Statutes and District Absence/Tardy Policy** (from Joe Gall, Nov. 3, 2008)

### Subd. 12. Legitimate exemptions.

A parent, guardian, or other person having control of a child may apply to a school district to have the child excused from attendance for the whole or any part of the time school is in session during any school year. Application may be made to any member of the board, a truant officer, a principal, or the superintendent. The school district may state in its school attendance policy that it may ask the student's parent or legal guardian to verify in writing the reason for the child's absence from school. The board of the district in which the child resides may approve the application upon the following being demonstrated to the satisfaction of that board:

(1) that the child's bodily or mental condition is such as to prevent attendance at school or application to study for the period required, which includes:

- (i) child illness, medical, dental, orthodontic, or counseling appointments;
- (ii) family emergencies;
- (iii) the death or serious illness or funeral of an immediate family member;
- (iv) active duty in any military branch of the United States; or
- (v) other exemptions included in the district's school attendance policy;

(2) that the child has already completed state and district standards required for graduation from high school; or

(3) that it is the wish of the parent, guardian, or other person having control of the child, that the child attend for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three hours in any week, a school for religious instruction conducted and maintained by some church, or association of churches, or any Sunday school association incorporated under the laws of this state, or any auxiliary thereof. This school for religious instruction must be conducted and maintained in a place other than a public school building, and it must not, in whole or in part, be conducted and maintained at public expense. However, a child may be absent from school on such days as the child attends upon instruction according to the ordinances of some church.

### Subd. 13. Issuing and reporting excuses.

The clerk or any authorized officer of the board must issue and keep a record of such excuses, under such rules as the board may from time to time establish

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### **The Board Policy JE-E states:**

Unexcused Absence – An unexcused absence is an absence for reasons that are not recognized by the school authorities as legitimate. Examples of unacceptable reasons for absence and tardiness:

- a. car trouble
- b. visiting
- c. overslept
- d. shopping
- e. needed at home
- f. family vacation (not arranged)
- g. leaving school during the regular school day without principal's approval.
- h. babysitting
- i. missed bus
- j. work
- k. alarm didn't work
- l. no call or note from parent/guardian verifying absence