POLICY GROUP 3 – STUDENTS COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

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# **Compulsory Attendance**

A student between the ages of six and 18 shall attend school, as well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

#### Student's 18 and Older

A student who voluntarily enrolls in school or voluntarily attends school after the student's 18th birthday shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is offered. If a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, JUBILEE ACADEMIC CENTER (School) may revoke the student's enrollment. The student's presence on school property thereafter is unauthorized and may be considered trespassing.

## **Accelerated Instruction**

A student in grades 3–8 will be required to attend an assigned accelerated instruction program, before or after\school or during the summer, if the student does not meet the passing standards on the state assessment for his or her grade level and applicable subject area.

# **Excused Absences for Compulsory Attendance Determinations**

For purposes of compulsory attendance, a student shall be excused from attending school for the following purposes:

- Observing religious holy days. A student who is observing holy days is allowed up to one day of excused travel for travelling to the site where the student will observe the holy days and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
- Attending a required court appearance. A student who is attending a required court appearance is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will attend the required court appearance and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
- Appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's application for United States citizenship. A student who is appearing at a governmental office to complete such paperwork is allowed up to one day of excused travel for travelling to the site where the student will complete the paperwork and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
- Taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony. A student who is taking part in such a ceremony is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will take part in the ceremony and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.

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- Service as an election clerk. A student who is serving as an election clerk is allowed up to one day of excused travel for traveling to the site where the student will serve as an election clerk and up to one day of excused travel for traveling from that site.
- Temporary absence resulting from an appointment with a health-care professional if the student commences classes or returns to school on the same day of the appointment. The appointment should be supported by a document such as a note from the health-care professional. "Temporary absence" includes the temporary absence of a student diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder on the da of the student's appointment with a health-care practitioner to receive a generally recognized service for persons with autism spectrum disorder, including applied behavior analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.
- Absence resulting from medical, dental, and psychological appointments; for special education assessment procedures; and for special education related services.
- Participation in a mentorship approved by school personnel to serve as one or more of the advanced measures needed to complete the Distinguished Achievement Program.
- Sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral held in Texas, if the student is in any of grades 6–12.
- College visits. The School may excuse a student from attending school to visit
  an institution of higher education accredited by a generally recognized
  accrediting organization during the student's junior and senior year for the
  purposes of determining the student's interest in attending the institution of
  higher learning. The School may not excuse for this purpose more than two days
  during the student's junior year and two days during the student's senior year.
  The student must obtain approval from the Principal to visit an institution of
  higher education, follow campus procedures to verify such a visit, and make up
  any work missed.
- Temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal, or Superintendent.

#### **Parental Consent for Absence**

A student absent from school for any portion of a school day shall provide a note to the campus office upon return, signed by the parent or medical provider (see below) that describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older.

#### **Failure to Provide Note**

Upon return to school, a student who has been absent and who fails within three days of the student's absence to bring a statement from a parent or medical provide verifying

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the illness or condition that caused the student's absence, the absence will be unexcused.

## Make-Up Work

The student shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up schoolwork missed on the days describe above. If the student satisfactorily completes the work, the days of absence shall be counted as days of compulsory attendance. The student shall not be penalized for the absence. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare procedures for acceptance of make-up work.

#### **Notices to Parents**

The School shall notify a student's parents in writing at the beginning of the school year that, if the student is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year or three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, the student's parent is subject to prosecution under Education Code 25.093, and the student is subject to prosecution under Education Code 25.094 or to referral to a juvenile court in a county with a population less than 100,000.

#### **Notice of Absences**

The School shall notify a student's parent if the student has been absent from school, without excuse under Education Code 25.087, on three days or parts of days within a four-week period. The notice must:

- Inform the parent that:
  - It is the parent's duty to monitor the student's school attendance and require the student to attend school,
  - o The parent is subject to prosecution under Education Code 25.093; and
- Request a conference between school officials and the parent to discuss the absences.

# Failure to Comply with Compulsory Attendance

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed "accelerated instruction" by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

If a student fails to attend school without excuse on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, the School shall within ten school days of the student's tenth absence:

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- File a complaint against the student or the student's parent or both in a county, justice, or municipal court for an offense under Education Code 25.093 or 25.094, as appropriate, or refer the student to a juvenile court in a county with a population of less than 100,000; or
- Refer the student to a juvenile court for conduct indicating a need for supervision under Family Code 51.03(b)(2).

The School may take the actions listed above if a student fails to attend school without excuse on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, but does not fail to attend school for the time specified above.

# **Parental Consent for a Student to Leave Campus**

The School operates a closed campus. Students are not allowed to leave for any reason during the school day without properly checking out in accordance with campus rules and procedures.

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