

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The North Middlesex Regional School District School Committee recognizes that parents/guardians of student(s) attending our schools have special rights as well as responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law.

The NMRSD School Committee believes that each school administration has the responsibility to monitor attendance and intervene when there is concern for the student's well-being and/or academics. There are circumstances where an absence should not count against the student.

Students will be excused from the attendance requirements for the following reasons:

1. Illness/Quarantine
2. Bereavement
2. Legal or court appointment (documentation required).
3. School sponsored activities such as field trips.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.

A student may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

Parents/Guardians can help their student(s) by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly.

Parents/Guardians will provide a written or verbal explanation for the absence and tardiness of a student. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable.

All school handbooks shall contain procedures that give specifics on attendance requirements and definitions of excused, unexcused, and trancies.

In all cases, the schools are to adhere to and uphold any local, state, or federal laws pertaining to attendance.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 76:1; 76:16; 76:20