

8310–STUDENT ABSENCES

Recognizing the relationship of good attendance and student achievement, the Grand Island Public Schools will promote systems to work with parents and students to establish and maintain desirable habits of punctuality and attendance. Parents or guardians are expected to account for students who are absent. Parents or guardians will arrange with the school principal, or designee, for any scheduled absence from any class, or classes, or days of school, prior to the absence of the student. In the event of illness or other emergency, parents or guardians are expected to contact the schools as soon as possible.

The district will maintain contact with all parents and guardians to verify attendance and to notify parents of students who do not arrive at school at the expected time. All attempts to contact parents or guardians will be documented.

Student absences approved by the principal shall be *School Excused Absences*. School Excused Absences shall count as days in attendance for purposes of addressing excessive absenteeism, except when the school district determines the need to comply with state statute and report to the county attorney for excessive absences. *School Excused Absences* include, but are not limited to, *[illness, family emergencies, recognized religious observances, appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day and school-sponsored or approved activities]*.

Absences that are *Not School Excused Absences* may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:

- (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the proscribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day and these absences are deemed excessive by the building administrative team. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, vacations, and medical appointments.
- (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.

The Grand Island Public Schools utilizes its Student Information System to identify and record different attendance using a coding system to meet NDE reporting guidelines. These attendance codes provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence and are listed in the GIPS Student/Parent Handbook.

Students whose absences are approved shall make up the work missed and receive full credit for the missed schoolwork, within guidelines of the student handbook. It shall be the responsibility of the student to initiate a procedure with the student's teacher to complete the work missed.

Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school the day of the activity unless the principal for the student to be absent has given permission.

It shall be the responsibility of the parent to notify the student's attendance center as soon as the parent knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The principal may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or designee, in conjunction with building administrators, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-201 and 79-209  
NDE Rule 10.012.01B

Policy Reference: 8312-EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM  
8320-COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Policy Adopted - November 3, 1980  
Reviewed by Board Policy Committee: 8-19-96  
Policy Revised: 9-13-99  
Policy Revised: 8-2-01  
Policy Revised: 11.15.2010  
Policy Review: 12.11.2014