

Harrisburg School District	NEPN Code: JEAA
Policy Manual	

ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

EXCUSE FROM SCHOOL

Children of compulsory school age must regularly attend some public or non-public school, unless excused from school attendance. A child will be excused from school attendance if a child is provided with alternative instruction for an equivalent period of time as in the public schools in the basic skills of language arts and mathematics. Any parent or guardian of a child of compulsory school age may request that the child be excused from school attendance. The request for alternative instruction must be filed annually.

All requests for alternative instruction must be in writing. The form for requests for a child to be provided with alternative instruction is provided by the South Dakota Department of Education.

EXCLUSIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

The law provides for the exemption of students of compulsory school age from attendance when the child is provided with competent alternative instruction for a like period of time as would be provided by the public schools. Excuse from school is effective without Board action upon filing an application with the school Superintendent.

The Board may revoke a certificate of excuse, if, upon inspection by the Secretary of Education, it is shown that the student is not being taught in compliance with the standards of state law. Upon revocation of a certificate of alternative instruction, the parent or legal guardian may appeal the decision to the State Board of Education, which will conduct a hearing. The State Board's decision will be final.

RE-ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL

1. Any child of compulsory school age, who has been receiving alternative instruction in an unaccredited setting, seeking enrollment in the School District, shall be placed at the child's demonstrated level of proficiency established by the District's assessments. The assessments shall be administered by school personnel.
2. **Appeals of Decisions** - Any parent, guardian, or eighteen (18) year old student aggrieved by a grade or credit determination may, pursuant to this policy, appeal the determination to the School Board. Please refer to student handbook for processes and guidelines. Decisions made by the School Board under this policy may be appealed to the Secretary of the Department of Education.
3. All other issues in this regard can be accessed in the student handbook or with discussion and discretion of the associated principal.

Adopted:

Revised: