



Mitchell School District 17-2 POLICY

Category	Approval	
Series 1000: Students	Adopted	Revised
	11/9/87	11/26/01, 6/28/10
	Reviewed	
	7/27/06, 6/23/14, 5/14/18, 4/25/22	

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

MSD 1021

The process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and individual study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each student. While it is true that written work can be completed despite a student's absence from class, class instruction, presentations, discussions, audio-visual presentations, and student-teacher interaction cannot be made up in the same manner. All of those experiences are the essence of education. A student's contribution to and achievement in class are directly related to attendance. It is critical for both students and parents to understand that students miss an essential portion of their education when they are absent from class.

Furthermore, South Dakota statutes require the local Board of Education to enforce definite standards of attendance.

South Dakota Compulsory School Attendance Law (13-27-1)

Any person having control of a child, who is not younger than five or older than six years old by the first day of September, any child who, by the first day of September, is at least six years old, but who has not exceeded the age of eighteen, shall cause the child to regularly attend some public or nonpublic school for the entire term during which the public school in the district in which the person resides, or the school to which the child is assigned to attend, is in session, until the child reaches the age of eighteen years, unless the child has graduated or is excused as provided in this chapter. However, the requirements of this section are met if a child who is at least sixteen years of age enrolls in a general education development test preparation program that is school-based or for which a school contracts and the child successfully completes the test or reaches the age of eighteen years.

A child is eligible to enroll in a school-based or school-contracted general education development test preparation program or take the general education development test if the child is sixteen or seventeen years of age, and the child presents written permission from the child's parent or guardian and one of the following:

- (1) Verification from a school administrator that the child will not graduate with the Child's cohort class because of credit deficiency;
- (2) Authorization from a court services officer;
- (3) A court order requiring the child to enter the program;
- (4) Verification that the child is under the direction of the Department of Corrections; or
- (5) Verification that the child is enrolled in Job Corps as authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended to January 1, 2009.

Any child who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and who completes the general education development test preparation program may take the general education development test immediately following release from the school program or when ordered to take the test by a court. Any such child who fails to successfully complete the test shall re-enroll in the school district and may continue the general education development preparation program or other suitable program as determined by the school district.

All children shall attend kindergarten prior to age seven. Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption if the child has not previously attended kindergarten.

Any absence other than an excused absence is considered truancy. Therefore, in accordance with the compulsory school attendance law the school board will employ building principals/assistant principals as truancy officers. Additionally, when available, school Resource Officers may also act as truancy officers.

Truancy officers will be responsible for enforcing the compulsory attendance laws which require regular attendance and will establish procedures for referral of a truant student to juvenile authorities.

Through cooperation with parents, strict adherence to regulations in regard to attendance procedures, and diligence in investigating the causes of absence, the school will endeavor to reduce absenteeism and truancy.

All additional attendance regulations and procedures shall be included within student/parent handbooks. These handbooks and their contents shall be reviewed approved by the board on an annual basis.

11/26/01 revision struck “(Grades K-8)” from the policy title, added the last paragraph on the placement of additional attendance regulations within student handbooks, and renumbered the policy from 1030 to 1021.

6/28/10 revision adjusted mandatory attendance to include from Kindergarten to age 18.