

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

The School Board believes that regular attendance plays a key role in the success a student achieves in school. The Board recognizes its responsibility under the law to ensure that students attend school regularly. The School District shall abide by all state and local attendance laws. The Board shall require parents/guardians of children to abide by all state and local attendance laws and may use any legal means to correct the problems of excessive absence or truancy.

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

(cf. 5112.2 - Exclusions from Attendance)

(cf AR 5131 – Code of Conduct)

Excused Absences

The Superintendent or designee may excuse student absences for health reasons, family emergencies or other reasons the Superintendent or designee determines constitute good cause.

(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)

(cf. AR 7.02.05 – Exceptional Circumstances)

Unexcused Absences/Truancy

The Board is committed to keeping students in school. Truancy is defined as the absence of a student from class without the knowledge or prior consent of the parent/guardian. The Superintendent or designee shall implement all steps appropriate to reduce student absences and to ensure that all children residing within the district are receiving appropriate educational services as required by law.

A habitual truant shall be defined as a student having five or more unexcused absences in a semester. A student failing to attend school during any part of the semester after the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District has given notice that s(he) is a habitual truant constitutes a violation. Violations may result in a citation with mandatory fines and possible court appearances. Citations may be issued by the truancy officer or any other Ketchikan Gateway Borough or City of Ketchikan employee designated for that purpose.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6164.5 - Student Study Teams)

ABSENCES AND EXCUSES (continued)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)
(cf. AR 5131 – Code of Conduct)
(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

The Superintendent or designee shall report to the Board any apparent violations of compulsory attendance laws. The Board shall investigate such reports and any public complaints of violations of state and/or local compulsory attendance laws.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.070 School age
14.17.500 Student count estimates
14.17.160 Student counting periods
14.30.010 When attendance compulsory
14.30.020 Violations
14.30.030 Prevention and reduction of truancy

ALASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

4 AAC 09.005-4 AAC 09.105 State aid