

# Frequently Asked Questions on Attendance and Absence Policy

Descriptor: FFB-AR1

**1. What is the difference between the North Dakota Century Code and Montpelier policy?**

The North Dakota Century Code is a law that governs the people of North Dakota. Montpelier School policy governs the school. Montpelier policy must abide by state and federal laws.

**2. Who determines consequences for unexcused and excused absences?**

The Superintendent is granted this responsibility by the board by the Student Conduct and Discipline policy and gives the superintendent the ability to develop age-appropriate disciplinary standards. The superintendent will work with appropriate school staff to determine the general rules for violations of conduct violations.

**3. What are the consequences for unexcused absences?**

Unapproved absences are a form of misconduct and students will be expected to fully make up work missed due to not being in class, physically make up the time for their absence, and may face other disciplinary action depending on the severity of infraction. Unexcused absences must be made up in a timely manner.

**4. What are the consequences for excused absences?**

It is recognized that from time to time students may be gone from school with permission and proper notification. Students are always required to make up their work for every excused absence. Once a student reaches 10 excused absences they will be required to physically make up the time for their absences.

**5. Do school related activities count towards a student's absence count?**

No. A school related activity does not count towards a student's excused absences because a student is still considered to be in school due to a field trip or extracurricular activity.

**6. Why does a student have consequences for excused absences?**

The school board recognizes that prompt, regular attendance is extremely important and absenteeism adversely affects the learning process of a student. Having more than 10 absences in a semester is viewed as absenteeism. It is not the intention of the school board for the student to receive unlimited excused absences.

**7. Does missing flex time count towards absences?**

Yes, missing flex or other daily activities count towards absences and will have the same consequences as if they missed a class period. Unless students are granted the ability to leave the school under other regulations such as those stated in student handbooks

or those items disseminated by the superintendent, they are expected to be at school. Failure to make up this time in accordance with school policy will result in additional consequences depending on severity of offense.

**8. What does the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) say about attendance?**

NDCC requires compulsory attendance for children between 7 and 16 years old. Any parent or guardian of a child must ensure the child attends a public school. There are exceptions such as homeschool children but once a child is enrolled in a public school, the parent or guardian must ensure attendance for the school year.

NDCC also lists attendance rules that include- Students shouldn't be absent without an excuse for more than:

- a. 3 days in a row
- b. 6 half days
- c. 21 class periods

If a student is absent without an excuse for the above listed days, the administrator will refer the matter to the local law enforcement agency.

**End Administrative Regulation FFB-AR1.....Updated 11-22-24**