

STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

- I. In compliance with Maine Statute, the Brunswick School Department permits excused absences from school for the following reasons only:
 - A. Personal illness;
 - B. Appointments with health professionals that cannot be made outside the regular school day;
 - C. Observance of recognized religious holidays when the observance is required during a regular school day;
 - D. Emergency family situations;
 - E. Planned absences for personal or educational purposes which have been approved.
- II. The responsibility for providing a valid, written excuse rests with the parent. The Principal is responsible for determining the validity of each excuse subject to the review of the Superintendent. Notes: For the purposes of this policy, parent may be a natural parent, legal guardian, foster parent or other individual officially delegated the responsibility for care and supervision of the child.

All absences must be supported by such a written excuse signed by a parent and must be presented to school officials upon return to school following an absence excusable under provisions I (A, B, C, and D). Parents should present a written request for a planned absence excusable under provision I (E) in advance of an absence and must do so when such an absence is to be five (5) or more school days. The Principal may waive this requirement for cause.
- III. No absence of a student shall continue more than three (3) days without the school ascertaining the reason for it and, if necessary, taking measures to have the child returned to school.
- IV. Absences for portions of a school day and/or tardiness (if excessive) may be considered on the basis of cumulative hours and may be translated into equivalent days or parts thereof.
- V. A child who has attained age fifteen (15) or has completed grade 9 and who has permission of his/her parent or legal guardian and the Superintendent of Schools, will be allowed to withdraw from school. Until age seventeen (17), any child to whom permission has been granted, as described, must meet once annually with the Director of Guidance to discuss possible return to school.

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Related Materials: Vocational Region 10 Attendance Policy

Statutory Reference: 20-A:5001