

Fremont County Joint School District No. 215

STUDENTS

3050

Attendance Policy

The Idaho State Constitution states that “It shall be the duty of the Legislature of Idaho to establish and maintain a general, uniform, and thorough system of public free common schools.” The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual child. The regular contact of the students with one another in the classroom and their participation in instructional activities under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose. This is an established principle of education that underlies and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in this and every other state in the nation. The good things that schools have to offer can only be presented to students who are in attendance. With continued emphasis regarding Excellence in Education, all parties involved in attendance can better strive for quality in the classroom. Attendance reflects a student’s dependability and is a significant factor on the student’s permanent record. Future employers are as much concerned about punctuality and dependability as they are about academic record. School success, scholarship, and job opportunity are greatly affected by a good attendance record.

Right to Attend

The services of public schools are extended to all persons resident of this state between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21). Every child is entitled to an educational opportunity commensurate with his/her needs and capacity to learn. It is the obligation and responsibility of parents to see that these opportunities are realized by seeing that their children attend school regularly.

Whereas state financial support is in part based on Average Daily Attendance, school attendance is required for any person under the age of sixteen (16) and, improving attendance is a major goal of the District.

Attendance Requirements

The intent of the Board of Trustees is to have students attend school on a regular basis. Regular and consistent attendance results in increased learning. It is also the intent of the Board of Trustees to have the regular classroom teacher present whenever possible. A student's presence in the classroom with the regular teacher contributes to time on task, and time on task attributes directly to learning.

Students in grades one (1) through five (5) may not be absent from any class more than ten (10) days each semester. If an elementary student exceeds the maximum number of allowed absences, he/she will be required to make up for the missed time and coursework through a process to be determined by individual school policy.

Students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) may not be absent from any class more than five (5) days each semester for those students on the A/B Block or ten (10) days each semester for those students on a traditional schedule. If a secondary student exceeds the maximum number of allowed absences, he/she will be required to make up for the missed time and coursework through a process to be determined by individual school policy. All time must be made up prior to the end of the semester. Failure to make up time will result in loss of credit for the course in which the maximum number of allowed absences has been exceeded.

Attendance

Whereas State financial support is in part based on Average Daily Attendance, school attendance is required for any person under the age of sixteen (16), and improving attendance is a major goal of the District.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the education of all school-aged children within District boundaries. Therefore, it reserves the right to ensure comparability of services at all other schools.

Whenever it is determined by the Board, or the Board's designee, under the provisions of due process of law that the parents or guardians of any child who is not enrolled in public schools are failing to meet the requirements of Idaho Code, any authorized representative of the Board shall notify in writing the prosecuting attorney in the county of the pupil's residence and recommend that a petition shall be filed in the magistrates division of the District Court of the county of the pupil's residence, in such form as the court may require under the provisions of Idaho Code.

Preplanned Absences

It is the student's responsibility to notify teachers prior to being absent. Teachers may require the work to be completed and turned in prior to departure. If not requested by a teacher, students will have one (1) day to make up work for each day missed, upon return.

Absences which will be counted in the limit will include such areas as: family trips, work days, vacations, visiting friends or relatives, suspension out of school, watching tournaments when not an actual participant, hair, medical, dental, or photography appointments, skiing, hunting, court appearances, attending concerts, shopping, or any others not mentioned which are unacceptable to the Attendance Board.

A telephone call or a note from either parent or guardian is necessary when a student is absent or late for any reason. Notes must be given immediately to the attendance secretary. Teachers will have a list of admits. When a student arrives late or after an absence, the student is required to report directly to class.

The schools will make reasonable efforts to contact parents/guardians when students are absent. Communications whether verbal or written will be determined by individual school policy. The intent of these communications is to inform parents/guardians of their student's absences, to

discuss the effect the absences may have on the student's academic progress, and to work in concert with parents to improve the student's attendance.

Truancy

Truancies and tardies will be addressed by individual school policy.

Attendance Appeal Process

If a student has lost credit due to excessive absences and he or she feels there is an extenuating circumstance, he or she may appeal to the Board of Trustees. A student may appeal denial of credit to the Board of Trustees for their consideration no later than the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Failure to comply with this provision shall constitute a waiver of any and all rights for appeal.

In reviewing written documentation during the appeal hearing, the Board of Trustees will consider the following: (1) attendance for the preceding semester and/or year, (2) grade(s) earned in the class(es) where credit was lost and other grades, (3) made-up work completed, and student's attitude toward school, and (4) extenuating circumstances. The Board decision and acceptance or rejection of extenuating circumstances is final.

If the appeal is not granted, the student will remain in that particular class period for the remainder of the semester or be placed in study hall. If disciplinary problems occur in that subject, the student will be suspended from school. If the appeal is granted, the student will return to class.

Legal Reference:	20, U.S.C. §§ 1415	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
	29 U.S.C. § 794	Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
	42 U.S.C. §§ 12111, et seq., and 12131, et seq.;	28 C.F.R. Part 35
		Americans with Disabilities Act
	Art. IX, § 9	Idaho Constitution – Compulsory Attendance at School
	I.C. § 33-202	School Age
	I.C. § 33-202	School attendance compulsory
	I.C. § 33-204	Exemption for Cause
	I.C. § 33-205	Denial of School Attendance
	I.C. § 33-207	Proceedings against parents or guardians

Policy History:

Adopted on: October 17, 2013

Revised on: