

## **STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee recognizes that parents/guardians of children attending our school have special rights as well as responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law.

Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. For observance of major religious holidays.

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator. However, students will not be excused for:

1. Sleeping in.
2. Reporting to a job.
3. Going on a vacation.
4. Visiting friends/family or child care issues.
5. Attending camp.
6. Other reasons solely at the discretion of the student and/or family.

The school is under no obligation to provide assignments for unexcused absences. A student's understanding of the importance of day to day school work is an important factor in the shaping of his/her character. Parents/guardians can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the school for needed support if facing chronic absenteeism.

Accordingly, parents/guardians will notify the school office by 8:30 a.m. on any day the child will not be in school. When a student returns to school after an absence, they must bring with them a note written by their parent/guardian indicating the reason for the absence. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible. An email is acceptable in lieu of a written note.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable.

The Richmond School Committee recognizes that successful academic achievement is virtually impossible without daily attendance in class. Therefore, Richmond Consolidated School will continually strive to reduce absenteeism and to establish the habit of regular

school attendance in our students. A high rate of absenteeism is defined as six or more absences during a trimester or 15 absences per year.

In order to achieve these goals the following procedure will apply to all students.  
Fourth unexcused absence: School nurse calls the family to determine the reason for the absence.

At the discretion of school administration, chronic tardiness may be considered as unexcused absenteeism. In the case of chronic absenteeism, school administration may consider corrective action up to and including retaining the student in his/her current grade.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 76:1

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