

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

In accordance with Idaho Code 33-202, parents or guardians who reside in St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 shall cause their children between the ages of seven (7) up to the age of sixteen (16) to attend school. Such children who are enrolled in St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 shall be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the State of Idaho. All children who are enrolled shall conform to the attendance policies and regulations established by the Board of Trustees. Parental permission for absences will not overcome the presumption of truancy.

HABITUAL TRUANT

Idaho Code 33-206 defines a habitual truant as any pupil who, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees, repeatedly has violated the attendance regulations established by the Board; or any child whose parents or guardians, or any of them, have failed or refused to cause such child to be instructed as provided in Idaho Code Section 33-202. Such parent(s), guardian(s), or student(s) may be directly proceeded against pursuant to Idaho Code 33-207.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students who have been absent from school will secure an admittance slip from the office before school convenes on the day they return. Students will not be admitted to class without a slip signed by the principal or the secretary. Students who have been absent must present a written explanation, signed by their parents or guardian, to be issued an admittance slip. A temporary admit will be issued to the student if no written explanation is presented. A temporary admit becomes an absence three (3) days after being issued unless cleared by a written explanation and the written explanation of the absence has been cleared by the principal and deemed as excused.

Any absences documented as excused, as determined by the building principal, will not be counted in calculating the student's total absences.

Excused absences may include, but are not limited to the following reasons:

1. Bonafide illness confined to home or hospital.
2. Family emergency, i.e., deaths, illness, etc.
3. Medical or dental appointments.
4. Pre-arranged absences.
 - A. Parents are expected to contact their student's respective school prior to their student being absent so any and all classwork can be assembled by the teacher(s). For the purposes of this Policy, a pre-arranged absence is not required for students to participate in after-school, extra-curricular activities. The

pre-arranged must be obtained at least one (1) day prior to the absence and will be reviewed by the principal and the teacher(s).

The principal will send a notification letter to parents when the student accumulates six (6) absences in one (1) or more classes putting them at risk of losing credit, promotion, or being expelled due to habitual truancy.

For summer school, because of the shortened calendar, parents will be notified after two (2) absences.

Students with nine (9) or more absences per semester will be considered “habitually truant” under this Policy.

Habitually truant students may be expelled and referred to the prosecuting attorney unless the principal at his or her discretion issues an opinion that the absences bring the total to less than nine (9) and that the absences were justifiable, unavoidable under the circumstances, and therefore excused. Otherwise, the recommendation for expulsion will be forwarded by the Superintendent on to the Board of Trustees for a hearing to be held at the next available meeting time. Burden of proof as to why the student should not be expelled will be that of the student, parents, or guardians.

Students who leave school for any reason during school hours must secure permission from the principal and sign out at the office.

It is required that all students missing school for any school-related activity will meet with their respective teachers after school for any help or assignments missed.

REFERRAL FORM

IN THE INTEREST OF: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

1. The above-named student has repeatedly been tardy to or absent from school. The student's lack of attendance has undermined academic growth and is out of compliance with Idaho State law. The student's Attendance Record is attached showing the periods and dates of tardies and/or absences.
2. All of the unexcused tardies and/or absences listed herein are truant as defined by the Board of Trustees for St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 and Idaho Code.
3. The undersigned, on behalf of St. Maries Joint School District No. 41, has contacted the student and the student's parents or guardians with the following results:

Based on St. Maries Joint School District's Habitual Truant Policy No. 501.01 and Idaho Code Sections 33-202 and 33-205, the above-named student is being referred to the Benewah County Prosecutor as a habitual truant.

ST. MARIES JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

DATE: _____

Policy Cross Reference:

Board Policy 502.02 Suspension and Expulsion

Legal Reference:

Idaho Code 33-202 School Attendance Compulsory
Idaho Code 33-206 Habitual Truant Defined
Idaho Code 33-207 Proceedings Against Parents or Guardians

Policy History:

Adopted: 11/09/1992
Reviewed: 07/09/2001
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