

Clinton City Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in May	Descriptor Term: Attendance	Descriptor Code: 6.200	Issued Date: 01/12/17
		Rescinds: 6.200	Issued: 11/14/13

1 Attendance is a key factor in student achievement, and therefore, students are expected to be present
2 each day school is in session.

3 The attendance supervisor shall oversee the entire attendance program which shall include:¹

- 4 1. All accounting and reporting procedures and their dissemination;
- 5 2. Alternative program options for students who severely fail to meet minimum attendance
6 requirements;
- 7 3. Ensuring that all school age children attend school;
- 8 4. Providing documentation of enrollment status upon request for students applying for new or
9 reinstatement of driver's permit or license; and
- 10
11 5. Notifying the Department of Safety whenever a student with a driver's permit or license
12 withdraws from school.²

13 Student attendance records shall be given the same level of confidentiality as other student records. Only
14 authorized school officials with legitimate educational purposes may have access to student information
15 without the consent of the student or parent/guardian.³

16 Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal/designee.
17 Excused absences shall include:

- 18 1. Personal illness;
- 19 2. Illness of immediate family member;
- 20 3. Death in the family;
- 21 4. Extreme weather conditions;
- 22 5. Religious observances;⁴
- 23 6. College visits;
- 24 7. Pregnancy;

- 1 8. School sponsored or school endorsed activities;⁷
- 2 9. Summons, subpoena, or court order; or
- 3
- 4 10. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the
- 5 student has no control.

6 The principal shall be responsible for ensuring that:⁵

- 7 1. Attendance is checked and reported daily for each class;
- 8
- 9 2. Daily absentee sheets contain sign in/sign out sheets and indicate students present or absent
- 10 for the majority of the day;
- 11 3. All student absences are verified;
- 12 4. Written excuses are submitted for absences and tardiness; and
- 13 5. System-wide procedures for accounting and reporting are followed.

14 **TRUANCY**

15 Truancy is defined as an absence for an entire school day, a major portion of the school day, or the major
16 portion of any class, study hall or activity during the school day for which the student is scheduled.

17 Students who are absent five (5) days without adequate excuse shall be reported to the director of
18 schools/designee who will, in turn, provide written notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student's
19 absence.⁵ The director of schools/designee shall also comply with state law regarding the reporting of
20 truant students to the proper authorities.⁵ In addition, the principal/designee shall initiate meaningful
21 communications with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) in order to determine the underlying cause(s)
22 of the unexcused absences. The principal/designee shall then develop an attendance plan and coordinate
23 additional services designed to improve the student's attendance.¹¹

24 Upon notification that a student has been absent ten (10) days without adequate excuse, the
25 principal/designee shall attempt to meet in person with the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) to determine
26 the appropriate services needed to improve the student attendance. The principal/designee shall
27 document all communication attempts and refine the attendance plan as needed.¹¹

28 If a student is required to participate in a remedial instruction program outside of the regular school day
29 where there is no cost to the parent(s) and the school system provides transportation, unexcused absences
30 from these programs shall be reported in the same manner.⁶

31 The board shall determine annually and include in the school calendar a plan for using three (3)
32 abbreviated school days and the procedures for making up missed instructional days. In addition, the
33 board shall determine annually whether to use flexible scheduling for kindergarten students.

1 **MILITARY SERVICE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN**

2 School principals shall provide students with a one-day excused absence prior to the deployment of and
3 a one-day excused absence upon the return of a parent or custodian serving active military service.

4 Principals shall also allow up to ten (10) excused cumulative absences per year for students to visit a
5 parent or guardian during a deployment cycle. The student shall provide documentation to the school as
6 proof of his/her parent's/guardian's deployment. Students shall be permitted to make up schoolwork
7 missed during these absences.⁸

8 **MAKE-UP WORK**

9 Make-up work policies are created and implemented at the school level.

10 **PROMOTION DENIAL**

11 Promotion denial determinations may include student attendance, however, student attendance may not
12 be the sole criterion.¹⁰ However, if attendance is a factor, prior to credit/promotion denial, the following
13 shall occur:

14

15 1. Parents and students shall be advised if a student is in danger of credit/promotion denial due
16 to excessive absenteeism.

17 2. Procedures in due process are available to the student when credit or promotion is denied.

18 **ATTENDANCE HEARING¹¹**

19 Students with excessive (more than 5) unexcused absences or those in danger of credit/promotion denial
20 shall have the opportunity to appeal to an attendance hearing committee appointed by the principal. If
21 the student chooses to appeal, the student or their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided written or actual
22 notice of the appeal hearing and shall be given the opportunity to address the committee. The committee
23 will conduct a hearing to determine if any extenuating circumstances exist or to determine if the student
24 has met attendance requirements that will allow him/her to pass the course or be promoted. Upon
25 notification of the attendance committee decision, the principal shall send written notification to the
26 director of schools/designee and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student of any action taken regarding
27 the excessive unexcused absences. The notification shall advise parents/guardian(s) of their right to
28 appeal such action within two (2) school days to the director of schools/designee.

29 The appeal shall be heard no later than ten (10) school days after the request for appeal is received.

30 Within five (5) school days of the director of schools/designee rendering a decision, the student's
31 parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a hearing by the board, and the board shall review the record.
32 Following the review, the board may affirm or overturn the decision of the director of schools/designee.
33 The action of the board shall be final.

34 The director of schools/designee shall ensure that this policy is posted in each school building and
35 disseminated to all students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff.

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.08(1)(a); TCA 49-6-3006
2. TCA 49-6-3017(c)
3. TCA 10-7-504; 20 USCS § 1232g
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.03(16); TCA 49-6-2904(b)(5)
5. TCA 49-6-3007
6. TCA 49-6-3021
7. Attendance Accounting Procedural Manual, '11-'12 (0104), Minimum Standards and Guidelines, State Department of Education
8. TCA 49-6-3019
9. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(1)(d)(2)
10. TCA 49-2-203(b)(7)
11. TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17

Cross References

Extracurricular Activities 4.300
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Promotion and Retention 4.603
Recognition of Religious Beliefs, Customs & Holidays 4.803
Student Records 6.600