

Attendance

Michigan law, Section 1561, requires that “ every parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control and charge of a child from the age of 6 to the child’s sixteenth birthday - shall send that child to a public school during the entire school year. The child’s attendance shall be continuous and consecutive for the school year fixed by the school district in which the child is enrolled.”

Your school recognizes that there are many situations which deem it advisable, wise, convenient, or necessary for a student to be absent for a reason other than illness. However, since there is great variance in different parents’ thinking with respect to this, the school must always stand in the position of judge in order to maintain uniformity in the handling of absences for reasons other than illness.

Schools have found that irregularity in attendance is the most frequent cause of failure. Therefore, parents will greatly aid the school in promoting the welfare of all students if they will not ask to have their children excused except in cases of extreme emergency. Every effort should be made to arrange appointments with doctors, dentists, trips out of town, etc., outside of school hours or on non school days. Hours after school, Saturdays and vacation periods should be used for these purposes. We encourage parents to respect and comply with the law. Each building principal will publish the attendance standards for students and include clear incentives and sanctions to reduce time lost.

Unresolved problems with attendance will result in referrals to the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office. **[Parents/guardians may be prosecuted for the non-school attendance of their children.]**

reviewed 11/25/91

reviewed 1/22/96

reviewed 9/15/97

revised 10/20/97

reviewed 4/16/01

reviewed 1/20/03