

Board Policy

Code No. 501

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Daily, punctual attendance at school is a primary ingredient in gaining the maximum benefit from the educational opportunities in the Bettendorf Community School District.

Repeated student absences are a concern requiring the cooperative effort of students, parents, and the school staff. Irregular attendance or tardiness not only retards the individual's studies, but also interferes with the instruction of students who are regular and prompt in attendance. While it is possible for an absent student to make up school work missed, it is impossible to recreate all the activities, demonstrations, and interactions that occurred during the student's absence.

The Bettendorf School District expects that planned trips and family vacations coincide with school vacation periods. If it is absolutely necessary for a child to be absent from school because of a planned trip or family vacation, then a parent should discuss the approaching absence with the classroom teacher to learn of the impact this absence will have upon a child's educational progress.

Emergency absences related to personal serious illness in the home or death in the family cannot be dealt with in advance. Work missed must be dealt with on an individual basis with the classroom teacher and/or building administrator/designee.

Opportunity for make-up work shall be provided for absences that reasonably can be considered unavoidable (e.g. medically-related absences, family emergencies, trips with parents, religious holidays or instruction.) Students with improper cause for absence will be deemed to be truant by the school district and the opportunity for make-up work shall be at the discretion of the teacher or the advice of the building administrator/designee and counselor.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code SS274.1; 279.8; 299.8
Court Cases: *Burdick v. Babcock*, 31 IA 562 (1871). *DPI Decision:* *In re Sandra Mitchell v. Benton Community School District*, 1 DPI, App. Dec. 20, June 1978.

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