

# DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICIES

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File: JH

## STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee does recognize that parents of children attending our schools 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:

- Illness or injury (verified by a physician's note)
- Bereavement in family
- Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child (per authorization of the Superintendent of Schools)
- Observance of major religious holidays
- Court Appearances
- College Visits
- Nurse Dismissals
- Suspensions

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

A student's understanding of the importance of day-to-day schoolwork is an important factor in the shaping of his character. Parents can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly. To that end, family vacations during school time are discouraged.

Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence and tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

When a student has accumulated five (5) unexcused absences state law requires we notify parents and offer to meet and develop a plan to improve attendance. In the case where absences are chronic (10 days or more unexcused) state law requires us to meet and develop a plan for attendance.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 76:1; 76:16; 76:20

Adopted: 6/8/15