

Students

Series 500

Policy Title: Attendance Requirements

Code No. 501.3-E1

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Daily, punctual attendance, whether the student attends in person or via online programming, is an integral part of the learning experience and is required of all students to receive the maximum benefit of the educational program. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to be on time.

It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian to make sure the student is enrolled in the Marshalltown Community School District, attends school in person or online as required by the laws of Iowa, and follows the district's policies and regulations for attendance.

Parents, guardians, or legal custodians within the school district who have children who are over six and under sixteen years of age by September 15 in proper physical and mental condition to attend school shall have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the Board or in online program approved by the Board. If a child turns sixteen (16) after September 15, he/she must attend school during that school year. Students shall attend school 180 days in accordance with the school calendar, with the exception of seniors who shall attend 175 days. Seniors may also be excused from make-up days due to inclement weather if they have met graduation requirements.

Enforcement of attendance requirements is the duty of both the local school district and the county attorney. The Board of Education is required to adopt rules describing the attendance requirements for students. Students must attend at least one hundred forty-eight days, to be met by attendance for at least thirty-seven days each school quarter (Iowa code section 280.3).

Any child who fails to attend school in person or online as required by this attendance policy, without reasonable excuse for the absence, shall be deemed to be a truant. If the parent, guardian, legal custodian or child refuses to accept the school's attempt to assure attendance or the school's attempt is unsuccessful, the matter shall be referred to the county attorney for mediation or prosecution.

Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving competent private instruction from a parent, guardian, or legal custodian or Iowa licensed practitioner;

- are excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge;
- have been excused under section 299.22 [deaf and blind]; or
- are exempted under section 299.24 [religious exemption] (299.2).

It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or legal custodian of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

The principal or other school official shall investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal or other school official is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal or other school official should discuss the next step among administrators. Students enrolled in an online program may be required to attend in person as a consequence of excessive absenteeism. If actions to improve attendance are unsuccessful, the principal shall refer the matter over to the county attorney. Truant students will be subject to the processes outlined in the supporting administrative regulation.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The superintendent or designee shall represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

Adopted: Fall, 1969

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Reviewed: November 3, 2008
October 7, 2013

Iowa Code §§ 259A; 279.10-.11; 299.1
(1991).

Iowa Code § 299B (Iowa Acts 1991).

Amended: May 10, 1993
April 8, 1996
August 9, 1999
November 17, 2008
May 4, 2009
November 6, 2017
December 7, 2020

Cross Reference: 604.6 Competent Private Instruction
Attendance-Administrative
501.9 Student Procedures
501.11 Student Transfers In
503.8 Honors and Awards