

## **STUDENT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committees believe that parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly in accordance with state law.

Students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child
4. Observance of major religious holidays.

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/her character. Parents can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly.

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.

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable.

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