

Elementary Attendance Policy

“Utah State Compulsory Education Requirements” (Utah Code, Section 53A-11-101.3) is the state law regarding elementary school attendance. The law directs parents and schools as follows:

- (2) *A person having control of a minor between 6 and 18 years of age shall send the minor to a public or regularly established private school during the school year of the district in which the minor resides.*
- (3) *It is a class B misdemeanor for a parent to knowingly fail to prevent the school-age child from being absent without a **valid excuse** of 5 or more times in a school year.*
- (5) *It is a class B misdemeanor for a parent of a school-age minor to intentionally or recklessly fail to enroll the school-age minor in school, unless the school-age minor is exempt from enrollment under Section 53A-11-102 or 53A-11-102.5.*
- (7) *...the **school district** shall **report** violations of this section to the appropriate county or district attorney...and the juvenile court.*

The Alpine School District Board of Education has approved an Elementary School Attendance Policy which defines an **excused absence** as:

1. An illness (If a child misses for illness more than 10 days, a doctor’s note is required)
2. A family death
3. An approved school activity
4. An absence permitted by the student’s IEP plan.
5. Any other excuse established as valid by a local school board, local charter board, or school district.

Additionally, an extended absence can be preapproved if the school collaborates with the parent/guardian to define the absence and provide reasonable make up opportunities.

When a child is absent, the parent or guardian should call to excuse the child from school as early as possible. If the absence does not fit the above definition, the absence is considered unexcused.

Some examples of unexcused absences are: *babysitting other children, keeping a parent company, dance or other private lessons which happen regularly, sleeping in, inadequate clothing, etc. There are resources available to assist families in overcoming some of these concerns. If a child is excused repeatedly for illness, the school will require a doctor’s note to verify the seriousness of the illness.*

If your child has excessive unexcused absences, the school will make earnest and persistent efforts to remedy the situation by making phone calls, sending letters, holding meetings with parents and children, making referrals to the district social worker and, possibly, to local law enforcement. Over 15 absences may be referred to the county attorney.

Thank you for your cooperation with us in providing an education for your child. If you have any questions regarding this, feel free call or visit with the principal.