



MPS Policy 5100 Attendance Policy Information

Full text of policy can be found at the District Online Policy Manual at <http://policy.mpls.k12.mn.us/>

Minnesota law makes instruction compulsory for all children between the ages of seven (7) and sixteen (16). Parents are responsible to assure that children of those ages are enrolled in a public, private or home school. The Minneapolis Public Schools' policy on attendance is applicable to all students enrolled in its schools.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish and define District rules for attendance. The goal of the MPS attendance policy is to promote student attendance and assure that absences are effectively addressed. Assuring student attendance requires a joint effort among school staff, students, families and the community. This policy does not apply to those periods during which a student is enrolled in an authorized foreign study exchange program.

General Rules

Kindergarten – Grade 12 – Once a student has been enrolled in kindergarten (regardless of the student's age) attendance is required until the student is properly withdrawn, transferred or graduated. Ninety-five percent (95%) attendance is set as the district minimum standard.

Pre-Kindergarten programs – Students enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program who fail to meet the District minimum standard of ninety-five percent (95%) will lose their placement in the program.

District Attendance Adopted Values

- 1) Student academic achievement is the primary goal of Minneapolis Public Schools. Although learning occurs in a variety of settings, time in class is essential to learning so that students can receive instruction and contribute as members of the community of learners.
- 2) School staff, students, families and the community share responsibility for student attendance.
 - a) Families have the responsibility for making decisions about their children's schooling.
 - b) School staff has responsibility for communicating with families about student attendance.
- 3) All students receive equitable opportunity and treatment. Students have individual needs that must be considered.

Withdrawing from school

Students under age seven (7) – may be withdrawn by the parent if

1. the student is enrolled in another school; or
2. the student is registered or enrolled in a home school; or
3. the parent declares in writing that the withdrawal is due to the immaturity of the child.

Students between ages 16 and 18 (16-18) – may be withdrawn by the parent if

- 1) the parent and student attend a meeting with school personnel to discuss educational opportunities available to the child including alternative schools; and
- 2) the parents and student sign a written election to withdraw from school

Students age 18 and over are adults and may withdraw from school on their own written election.

Absences

Procedures to obtain excuses from attendance, interventions for absences, and procedures for excuse from compulsory education are found in Superintendent Regulations 5100 A, B, C and D
Eligibility for co- and extra-curricular activities based on attendance is determined in Superintendent's Regulation 5100 A