



## ***ATTENDANCE POLICY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

### **I live in a rural area, what if I can't get to my school when weather is bad?**

Technically, it's a parent-excused absence and counts as one of the five that are allowed. But if you're unable to get to school, talk to your principal. Administrators have discretion in this type of unexpected circumstance.

### **Sometimes I miss school for my hockey games, does that count against me?**

It does not! Parents may excuse their students for organized sports and activities not offered by the District, as long as the student's grades meet the same eligibility requirements for a school sport or activity. These excused absences do NOT count against the five parent-discretionary absences. This is not just for hockey, but also for choral groups, baseball, rodeo, or other activities.

### **What if I'm sick, but not sick enough to go to the doctor?**

Parents and/or legal guardians make choices for their children, not the school district. So parents can choose to keep their sick kids home, but not take them to the doctor. This type of absence is a parent-excused absence. Our new policy allows high school students five of these absences in any one class, and middle school and elementary students five parent-excused absences per semester.

### **If I have five unexcused absences do I really not get credit?**

Having five unexcused absences does NOT mean an automatic loss of credit. But it does mean you'll need to have a scheduled intervention, which is a meeting with school officials, to find out what's going on. However, in grades 9-12 a student with eight (8) unexcused absences will not earn credit in the course/s identified, unless the student qualifies for a credit appeal process as an additional intervention.

### **Sometimes I miss school because my family and I go on vacation, is that okay?**

It is important to remember that parents and guardians are the ones who make the choices regarding their students – not the school district. If students are absent for vacations, or hunting trips, or camping excursions it will go down as a parent-excused absence. Our new policy allows high school students five of these absences in any one class, and middle school and elementary students are allowed five parent-excused absences per semester.

### **Didn't NCS D already have an attendance policy? Why did we need a new one?**

It's true, the policy is very similar to what we already had. But the new policy brings uniformity across all grade levels of the district. It gives a much clearer picture to what is expected of our students.

### **Who do my parents contact if they have questions about the new attendance policy?**

Start with your child's principal at school. You can also contact Board member Dana Howie, who is the chair of the Board's policy committee at [danahowie@msn.com](mailto:danahowie@msn.com).

To read the entire attendance policy visit [natronaschools.org](http://natronaschools.org), hover over the Parents/Students tab, then click on "Attendance".

