

## **Penalties for too many unexcused absences**

Both the child and the parent are held responsible for unexcused absences. Yes, even if your child is 16 years old and skips class without you knowing, you are considered responsible!

After too many unexcused absences, the homeschool must notify the parent. A compulsory attendance notification will be sent to the parent if a student has unexcused absences on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period or three days or parts of days without an excuse during a four-week period. Notice it says "parts of days". That means that leaving school early, or arriving after the first class, even if the child attended for some of the day, it can count as an absence.

The compulsory attendance letter gives the parent notice that the student has accumulated too many unexcused absences (and should not have any future absences) and gives the parent a chance to make corrections to the child's attendance record.

If corrections are not made, an administrative warning will notify the parent of the potential to be suspended or expelled.

## **90 Percent Rule**

There is the 90 Percent Rule, which states that students must attend class for 90 percent of the time it is offered to receive credit for the class. If the student doesn't meet this requirement, an attendance hearing committee may grant the student credit, depending on the circumstances.

## **Student absences are considered excused for the following reasons:**

1. Personal illness – parent note or phone call required;
2. Death of an immediate family member (immediate family is defined as parent, guardian, grandparent, sibling of the student or parent, or a person living in the home) -- parent note required;
3. Emergency in immediate family (as defined at item #2);
4. Ongoing medical or psychiatric treatment (chemotherapy, radiation, dialysis, etc. with a doctor note indicating specific timeframes and anticipated absences);
5. Homeland security and visa appointment (passport/INS/visa/residency; with documentation requiring appearance and proof of attendance);
6. Mandated court appearance with documentation of requirement (subpoena/court order) and attendance;
7. Appointment with health care professional such as a doctor, dentist, psychiatrist, or licensed professional psychologist;
8. Partial day, or Full day;

9. An appointment with a health care professional would include a visit to a doctor or dental office, a speech therapist, a master's level social worker, a psychologist, or a professional under the order of a medical doctor. An appointment with a dietician, nutritionist, family therapist, family counselor, recreational therapist, etc. would not be considered a health care professional for excused absence purposes.
10. Medicaid-eligible; participating in Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program (with documentation);
11. Out-of-school suspension for disciplinary reason [including an arrest or incarceration for school-related matters for up to three (3) days];
12. Observance of a religious holy day of obligation including a maximum of one day travel to and one day travel from the site if applicable (requires all missed assignments to be successfully completed within the timeframe established by the teacher);
13. School-sponsored curricular or extracurricular activity