

# Series 500 – Student Personnel

Policy Title: COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Policy Code No. 501.1

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Parents/guardians within the Newton Community School District who have children who are over six and under sixteen years of age by September 15 (compulsory attendance age) in proper physical and mental condition to attend school shall have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the Board of Directors.

Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school; or,
- are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

Newton Community School District students are required to attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. It shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the student attendance center as soon as the parent/guardian knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The principal may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence. Students who are absent without permission are considered truant.

Students attending competent private instruction, including those students who are home schooled, shall attend a minimum of thirty-seven days per quarter and a minimum of one-hundred and forty-eight days per year.

Students of compulsory attendance age who are required to be schooled, but who fail to attend school or be schooled regularly, will be considered truant. The building principal or designee shall investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal or designee is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal or designee shall refer the matter to the county attorney for students in grades 1-12.

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The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The principal or designee shall represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the building principals, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations shall indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for the unexcused absence or absences.

Date of Adoption        08/14/1989  
Review Date             02/27/2006  
Revision Date          02/27/2006

Legal Ref.:    Iowa Code §§ 239.5B; 259A; 279.10-11; 299; 299A (1997)  
                  441 Iowa Admin. Code 41.25(8).  
                  1978 Op. Att'y. Gen. 378.

Cross Ref.:    Board Policy  
                  501.1R Student Attendance  
                  502.1 Behavior and Discipline  
                  502.12F Juvenile Justice Agency Information Sharing Agreement  
                  503.1 Co-Curricular/Extracurricular Program  
                  503.7 Good Conduct Rule  
                  505.1 Student Records