

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Title</i> EXCUSED ABSENCES	<i>Code</i> JH
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HOLLISTON

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential for success in school. The Committee does recognize that parents of children attending our schools have special rights as well as responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law. Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine.
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.
5. High School juniors are permitted one excused absence during their junior year for purposes of visiting college(s). Seniors are permitted up to two excused absences during their senior year for purposes of visiting college(s). In order for these absences to be excused, students must submit documentation by the college admissions office confirming the student's participation.

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator. When scheduling tests or assessments, assigning homework, and determining due dates, teachers should consider and respect a student's availability before, during, and after major religious holidays. Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence or tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible. In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable.

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