

## Student Attendance Requirements

The compulsory attendance law provides that the parent or guardian of any child resident in this state who has attained the age of seven (7) years at the time of the commencement of school in the district, but not the age of sixteen (16) years shall cause the child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the State of Idaho.

Regular school classes shall be open to all persons resident of the district between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years. To be eligible to enter kindergarten, a student must be five (5) years of age before the first day of September of that school year. To enroll in the first grade, a child must be six (6) years of age on or before the first day of September of the school year in which the child is to enroll. Any child of the age of five (5) years who has completed a private or public out-of-state kindergarten for the required four hundred fifty (450) hours but has not reached the "school age" requirement in Idaho shall be allowed to enter the first grade.

For resident children with disabilities who qualify for special education and related services under public law 94-142 and subsequent amendments thereto, and applicable state and federal regulations, "school age" shall begin at the attainment of age three (3) and shall continue through the semester of school in which the student attains the age of twenty-one (21) years.

Students entering Bruneau-Grand View School District No.365 schools for the first time, pre-school through twelfth (12) grade are required to submit their birth certificate and records showing current immunizations for DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis), OPV (oral polio vaccine), and MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) or present a signed exemption for medical, religious, or personal reasons, upon an approved form. Students born after November 22, 1991 must also have a record showing immunization for the hepatitis B (HBV) to enroll in school. The first students required to have the HBV immunization are those enrolling for kindergarten in September 1997 (Board of Health and Welfare/Dept. of Health and Welfare).

Principals shall decide all matters pertaining to the grade placement of their students.

Elementary students shall enroll in the school, which serves their attendance area unless approval has been secured from the school board to make a change.

Pregnant students may attend school as long as the pregnancy is not detrimental to the educational program or the health and well being of the expectant mother.

### **Attendance Requirements: Elementary and Secondary students**

All students in Joint School District No. 365 should be in attendance one hundred (100) percent of the instructional time that a subject is being taught as established by the board of trustees. Responsibility for students compliance to the above expectation rests with the parent or guardian of the students. Parents or guardians who allow their children to be out of school assume the responsibility and should notify the school of their intentions of taking their children out of

school for reasons other than illness. It is better to make arrangements in advance so as not to jeopardize the academic standing of the students. When a child is absent from school, the parent or guardian is required to furnish a statement of the reason for the absence to the school. Such statement is to be furnished on the first day the child returns to school and should be signed and dated by the parent or guardian.

Secondary students, grades 7 through 12, who are absent for more than ten (10) percent of the instructional days and/or periods in a subject matter area have not earned credit and may petition for credit due to extraordinary circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to pick up a petition form in the office for each class that the attendance requirement has not been met. Petitions must be turned in to the office within ten (10) school days from the end of the semester for which credit is being requested. An attendance committee will review all petitions and determine if credit will be granted or denied. If a credit is denied the student has the option of appealing the decision to the board of trustees at the next regularly scheduled board meeting after denial of credit.

### **Student Absence**

There are three (3) types of absences recognized by the school district:

- School release is an absence for a school-sponsored activity such as athletics, music, field trips, etc. The student is counted present and is released from individual classes.
- Excused absence is an absence for non-school activities. A written excuse from the parent or guardian must be submitted to the principal.
- Unexcused absence is considered to be one of the following types of absence:
  - Any student who leaves without permission after boarding a bus or reporting to school in the morning.
  - Any student who is absent from school without the knowledge and permission of his/her parent/guardian or school authorities.
  - Any student skipping a class will be required to make the time up after school. Detention will be assigned at a rate of two (2) detention periods for each class missed or part thereof. Transportation arrangements are to be made by the students and parent or guardian.

### **Tardy**

A tardy occurs in the secondary school when any student is late to school or to any class and excessive tardies may result in after school detention being assigned.

In the elementary school, a student may be considered tardy until 9:00 a.m. After 9:00 a.m., it shall be considered one half-day absence. Six (6) tardies shall be counted as one absence.

## Truancy

In all cases of truancy, the parent or legal guardian must be notified immediately without fail.

- The home will be notified immediately of the first truancy and principal or counselor will arrange the proper conference.
- The principal in the event of the second truancy must arrange a parent conference. The second truancy may lead to suspension until proper agreements for solving the problem can be made.
- The third truancy will make the pupil liable for action leading to expulsion from school. In the case of continued absence of a pupil who is subject to compulsory attendance laws, and which is determined by the principal as truant, the principal shall make a referral of the case to the probate court. A copy of the referral shall be submitted to the superintendent.

An habitual truant is any pupil who, in the judgment of the board of trustees, repeatedly has violated the attendance regulations established by the board; or any child whose parents or guardians, or any of them, have failed or refuse to cause such child to be instructed as provided in section 33-206 of the Idaho Code.

## Releasing Students

When a parent or guardian takes a student from school during school hours, the student must be checked out through the office. Students who leave the school grounds for any reason during the school day must check out in the office prior to leaving.

## Released Time

Students wishing to be granted released time status must apply to the principal prior to the beginning of each semester. Criteria to be considered may include but not be limited to the following:

- Students must be of senior status including sufficient credits to graduate if the request is granted.
- Students must refrain from visiting school during school hours, other than as a student.
- Students must be enrolled in at least two subjects

## Legal source:

Idaho Code 33-201	“School age.”
Idaho Code 33-202	“School attendance compulsory.”
Idaho Code 33-204	“Exemption for cause.”
Idaho Code 33-205	“Denial of school attendance.”
Idaho Code 33-206	“Habitual truant defined.”
Idaho Code 33-207	“Proceedings against parents or guardians”
Idaho Code 33-208	“Kindergartens and child attendance not compulsory.”

Art. IX, 9, Idaho Constitution – Compulsory Attendance at School

Adopted: January 9, 1997

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Revised: October 28, 1998; February 9, 2006

