

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY

I. POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the St. Johnsbury School District to set high expectations for consistent student school attendance in accordance with Vermont law in order to facilitate and enhance student learning.

II. BACKGROUND:

Vermont law requires school attendance for students between the ages of 6 and 16 so a student may complete a course of study that will facilitate the transition to the responsibilities of adulthood. The St. Johnsbury School District believes consistent attendance is a prerequisite for assuring the academic, social and emotional growth of students. In addition, regular and punctual attendance is important to the development of responsible and effective work/study habits as well as a demonstration that students are assuming responsibility for their own behavior. Encouraging students to take full advantage of their education is a shared responsibility of students, families, schools, and communities.

III. DEFINITIONS:

1. A **truant** student is one who is subject to compulsory school attendance (16 V.S.A. §1121) and who is absent without valid cause or excuse.
2. **Valid causes** for absences include illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the family, situations beyond the students control as determined by the **Administration** or other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent or guardian for the health or safety of the student and are confirmed in writing by the parent or guardian of the student.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The **Principal** is responsible for developing procedures to guide the implementation of this policy and for student attendance. The procedures will address the following issues and may include others as well:
 - A. written excuses;
 - B. tardiness;
 - C. notification of parents/guardian;
 - D. signing out of school;
 - E. excessive absenteeism;
 - F. homebound and hospitalized students;
 - G. early dismissals;
 - H. homework assignments;
 - I. making up work.
2. The Principal is responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date records of student attendance.
3. The Principal is responsible for assuring that the school has the appropriate family information that allows the school to contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) of all students whenever necessary.

DATE WARNED: FEBRUARY 26, 2011

DATE APPROVED: MARCH 14, 2011