
Note: This local policy has been revised in accordance with the District's [innovation plan](#).¹

The District is exempt from state law provisions denying credit or a final grade to a student in kindergarten–grade 12 who has not attended class 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

A student who has not been in attendance for 90 percent of the days the class is offered shall not be awarded credit or a final grade except in courses designated as having innovative instructional arrangements or through methods for regaining credit described in this policy.

**Innovative
Instructional
Arrangements**

Courses with innovative instructional arrangements as designated by the Superintendent or designee, such as eSchool, blended learning classes, service-learning projects, or internships, shall not be subject to the requirement for a student to be in attendance 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, other instructional activities, and other factors shall be used to determine student mastery and the awarding of credit and a final grade in innovative instructional arrangement classes.

**Consideration of All
Absences**

All absences shall be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days under this policy.

**Attendance
Committees**

The Board shall establish an attendance committee or as many committees as necessary for efficient implementation of Education Code 25.092.

Each campus shall have a campus attendance committee. The principal shall make the specific appointments in accordance with legal requirements. The committee may be composed of the campus management team and shall have an odd number of members.

**Parental Notice
of Excessive
Absences**

A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice prior to and at such time when a student's attendance in any class drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

**Methods for
Regaining Credit or
Awarding a
Final Grade**

When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal. This plan must provide for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class as determined by the principal.

If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may request award of credit or a final grade by submitting a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee.

Petitions for credit or a final grade may be filed at any time the student receives notice but, in any event, no later than 30 days after the last day of classes.

The attendance committee shall review the student's entire attendance record and the reasons for absences and shall determine whether to award credit or a final grade. The attendance committee may also, whether a petition is filed or not, review the records of all students whose attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

Students who have lost credit or have not received a final grade because of excessive absences may regain credit or be awarded a final grade by fulfilling the requirements established by the attendance committee.

Personal Illness

When a student's absence for personal illness exceeds seven consecutive days, the principal or attendance committee may require that the student present a statement from a physician or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

If a student has established a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may require that a student present a physician's or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

Guidelines on Extenuating Circumstances

The attendance committee shall adhere to the following guidelines to determine attendance for award of credit or a final grade:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Days of Attendance | 1. If makeup work is completed satisfactorily, excused absences that are allowed under compulsory attendance requirements shall be considered days of attendance for award of credit or final grade. [See FEA(LEGAL) at Excused Absences for Compulsory Attendance Determinations] |
| Transfers / Migrant Students | 2. A transfer or migrant student incurs absences only after his or her enrollment in the District. |
| Documentation | 3. The committee shall consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences. |

ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC
(LOCAL)

Consideration of Control	4. The committee shall consider whether the absences were for reasons out of the student's or parent's control.
Student's Academic Record	5. The committee shall consider whether or not the student has completed assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
Information from Student or Parent	6. The student or parent shall be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit or be awarded a final grade.
Best Interest Standard	In reaching consensus regarding a student's absences, the committee shall attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations addressing the committee's documentation of the decision.
Unexcused Absences	Absences such as vacations and trips (except those excused by the principal for unusual circumstances), babysitting, working (including modeling), and nonschool-sponsored athletic events and programs shall be considered unexcused. [See EIAB regarding make-up work]
Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade	<p>The committee may impose any of the following conditions for students with excessive absences to regain credit or be awarded a final grade:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Completing additional assignments, as specified by the committee or teacher.2. Attending tutorial sessions as scheduled, which may include Saturday classes or before- and after-school programs.3. Maintaining the attendance standards for the rest of the semester.4. Taking an examination to earn credit. [See EHDB]5. Attending a flexible school day program.6. Attending summer school.7. Attending evening school.8. Completing correspondence courses.9. Completing independent study projects.10. Completing student contracts.

In all cases, the student must also earn a passing grade in order to receive credit.

Appeal Process

A parent or student may appeal the decision of the attendance committee in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

¹ Innovation Plan: <http://www.pisd.edu/innovation>