

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I write to provide information regarding our upcoming school parent conferences, as well as to inform you of recent changes regarding required notification and/or documentation concerning absences.

As we come to the end of the first marking period, I encourage you to review with your child/children and their teacher (s), the progress made to date and together develop a plan to ensure continued success throughout the school year. Each of our schools provides opportunities in the next week and beyond to share progress to date and plan for your child's future success.

An important component of our partnership with you is your family's awareness of and commitment to attend school on a regular basis. You may be aware that Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-198b requires regional and local boards of education to carry out the provisions of Section 10-198a and for the purpose of reporting truancy.

The Mansfield Board of Education has recently revised the district's Student Attendance and Truancy Policy to conform with requirements issued by the Connecticut State Board of Education pursuant to General Statutes Section 10-198b. The Policy now provides that a student's absence will be considered excused if the student has been absent for less than ten days during the school year and the student's parent or guardian approves such absence and provides written, signed documentation of such approval within ten days of the student's return to school. The written documentation should explain the nature and reason for the absence, as well as the anticipated length of the absence. Starting with the tenth day of absence in one school year, the absence will be considered excused, with appropriate documentation, only for the following reasons:

1. Student illness;
2. Student religious observance;
3. Death in the family or other emergency outside the control of the student's family;
4. Mandated court appearance, with appropriate documentation;
5. The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (no parent documentation is required);
6. Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by district administrators

School absence after the tenth day for any other reason, except for a school implemented disciplinary action, will be considered unexcused, even if the parent excuses the absence. It should be noted that the State Board of Education has made clear that all student absences for illness, irrespective of the length of the absence, must be verified by a licensed medical professional in order for the absence to be considered excused.

A full copy of the Mansfield Board of Education Policy Manual is available at:
<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/13915/11152/13581/default.aspx>. Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



Frederick A. Baruzzi