

Attendance Policy Hearing
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools

Attendance policy hearing will start following the student fees hearing Monday, August 14, 2023

Junior High Conference Room

800 West 7th St

McCook, NE 69001

"It is the mission of McCook Public Schools to equip all students to succeed in a complex global society"

Please arrive at the Board meeting at the start time, because the Board reserves the right to change the order of items.

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Roll Call
2. Board accepts public comments
3. Attendance Policy
4. Adjournment

Student Attendance

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center. This policy, developed in collaboration with the county attorney for the District's principal office location, is an attempt to address the problem of absenteeism. This policy shall include a provision indicating how the District and the county attorney will handle cases in which absences are due to documented illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable

The Superintendent shall designate an attendance officer. The attendance officer will investigate the report of any child who may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance statutes.

If any student has accumulated a total of five excused and unexcused absences per quarter or the hourly equivalent of five absences, the school shall render all services in its power to compel the student's attendance. These services shall include the following:

1. A meeting or meetings between the school attendance officer, school social worker (or school principal or a member of the school administrative staff, if the school has no social worker), the student's parent/guardian and the student (if necessary) to solve the absenteeism problem.
2. The District shall also implement a collaborative plan addressing barriers to student attendance after ten absences or the hourly equivalent thereof.
3. Educational evaluation to assist in determining the specific condition(s) contributing to the absenteeism problem, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
4. Investigation of the problem by a school social worker (or principal or administrative staff member) to identify conditions contributing to the absenteeism problem. If services for the student and student's family are determined to be needed, the investigator shall meet with the parent/guardian and child to discuss any referral to appropriate agencies to remedy the conditions.
5. Educational counseling to explore curriculum changes such as alternative educational programs to solve the absenteeism problem.

If the student is absent more than twenty days per year, or the hourly equivalent, the attendance officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which such person resides when absences are not due to a verified illness.

It shall be within the discretion of the Principal to determine if disciplinary action is necessary. Disciplinary action for students receiving special education services will be assigned in accordance with the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program.

The Superintendent shall report on a monthly basis to the Commissioner of Education as directed by the commissioner regarding the number of and reason for any long-term suspension, expulsion, or absenteeism of a student; referral of a student to the office of the county attorney for absenteeism; or contacting of law enforcement officials other than school resource officers by the District relative to a student enrolled in the District.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to implement this policy. The implementation may include regulations indicating the disciplinary action to be taken for absenteeism.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-208 and 209
 NDE Rule 10.012.01B

Cross Reference: 411.03 Truancy Officer
 505 Student Discipline
 506 Student Activities
 507 Student Records

Approved 9-9-2019 Reviewed _____ Revised __9-9-2019_____