Omaha Public Schools
Attendance Policy

Policy 6.27

After FIVE days of unexcused absence, or its hourly equivalent, the District shall render services to address barriers to attendance. Such services shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the parent/guardian of the child; and
2. One or more meetings between, at a minimum, a school attendance officer, a school social worker, or a school administrator, or his or her designee, the parent/guardian and the child, when appropriate, to attempt to address the barriers to attendance. During this meeting or meetings a collaborative plan will be developed to improve attendance. This plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
   a. Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
   b. Educational counseling;
   c. Educational evaluation;
   d. Referral to community agencies for economic services;
   e. Family or individual counseling; and
   f. Assisting the family in working with other community services.

After TEN cumulative days of unexcused absences, the student’s records will be reviewed by the school’s attendance team, individualized problem solving or updating of collaborative plan may occur as needed.

After FIFTEEN cumulative days of unexcused absences a letter will be sent to the parent or guardian by the designated school official. This letter shall provide notice to the parent/guardian that the District may refer the absences of the child to the county attorney upon twenty days of unexcused absences. This letter shall also provide notice to the parent or guardian that they may request a meeting to review the collaborative plan.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney:

The District may report to the county attorney when the school has documented the efforts made as required by the collaborative plan have not been successful in improving regular attendance and the child has been absent more than twenty days per year. The school shall also provide notice to the parent/guardian prior to the referral to the county attorney being made.

A referral cannot be made to the county attorney’s office until at least 20 days; however the school may involve the county attorney at any point in the process of addressing the student’s absences.
The school’s Attendance Team will be the responsible for implementing and monitoring this process.

The following circumstances will not be counted toward intervention as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-209:

**Excused absences will include:**
1. School Sponsored Activities
2. Bereavement – The student is attending a funeral.
3. Court/Legal Appearance – The student is required to attend a court or legal proceeding.
4. Ill – Parent/Guardian notifies the school the student is ill.
5. Medically Excused – A doctor’s note is provided to explain the absence, or the school nurse is required to send the student home. Absences related to the student’s hospitalization or a long term or chronic illness while under the care of a licensed physician will be considered excused.
6. Military Leave – The student absence is specific to deployment and/or military leave activities
7. Office – The student is in the school, but in the office (visiting the nurse, counselor, administrator, etc.).
8. Post Secondary Visit – The student is visiting a post secondary program
9. Religious Holiday Observance
10. Student Success Center – Student is assigned to the Student Success Center
11. Suspension

The following circumstances will require intervention as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-209:

**Unexcused absences will include:**
1. Absent – The school has been notified of an absence that does not meet the definition of excused
2. Truant – Neither the family nor school officials know the student’s whereabouts
3. Unverified – No one has contacted the school, or the school has been unable to confirm the reason for the absence, or the school has not confirmed the reason for absence