

# ***Wm. S. Hart UHS District***

## ***Administrative Regulation***

Students

AR 5113(a)

### **ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

#### **Excused Absences**

A student's absence shall be excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness. (Education Code 48205)
2. Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer. (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 5112.2 – Exclusions from Attendance)*

3. Medical, dental, optometric, or chiropractic appointments. (Education Code 48205)
4. Attendance at funeral services for a member of the immediate family. (Education Code 48205)

- a. ~~Excused~~ ***Such*** absence ~~in this instance~~ shall be limited to one day if the service is conducted in California or three days if the service is conducted out of state. (Education code 48205)

- ~~b. "Immediate family" shall be defined as mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, spouse, son/son-in-law, daughter/daughter-in-law, brother, sister, or any relative living in the student's immediate household. (Education Code 45194, 48205)~~

5. Jury duty in the manner provided by law. (Education Code 48205)
6. ~~The~~ ***Illness*** or medical appointment ~~during school hours~~ of a child to whom the student is the custodial parent. (Education Code 48205)

*(cf. 5146 – Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students)*

7. Upon advance written request by the parent/guardian and the approval of the principal or designee, justifiable personal reasons including but not limited to: (Education Code 48205)
  - a. Appearance in court.
  - b. Attendance at a funeral service.
  - c. Observation of a ***religious*** holiday or ceremony ~~of his/her religion.~~

- d. Attendance at religious retreats ~~not to~~ **for no more than exceed** four hours per semester.
  - e. Attendance at an employment conference.
  - f. Attendance at an educational conference on the legislative or judicial process offered by a nonprofit organization
8. Service as a member of a precinct board for an election pursuant to Elections Code 12302. (Education Code 48205)

(cf. [6142.3](#) – Civic Education)

9. ~~Participation in religious instruction or exercises in accordance with District policy. (Education Code [46014](#))~~ **To spend time with an immediate family member who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in Education Code [49701](#), and has been called to duty for deployment to a combat zone or a combat support position or is on leave from or has immediately returned from such deployment (Education Code [48205](#))**

***Such absence shall be granted for a period of time to be determined at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. (Education Code [48205](#))***

(cf. [6173.2](#) - Education of Children of Military Families)

10. **Attendance at a naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen (Education Code [48205](#))**
11. **Participation in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at the student's place of worship or other suitable place away from school (Education Code [46014](#))**

(cf. [6141.2](#) - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

***Absence for student participation in religious exercises or instruction shall not be considered an absence for the purpose of computing average daily attendance if the student attends at least the minimum school day as specified in AR 6112 - School Day, and is not excused from school for this purpose on more than four days per school month. (Education Code [46014](#))***

(cf. [6112](#) - School Day)

12. **Work in the entertainment or allied industry (Education Code [48225.5](#))**

***Such absence shall be excused provided that the student holds a work permit authorizing such work and is absent for a period of not more than five consecutive days and up to five absences per school year. (Education Code [48225.5](#))***

***13. Participation with a nonprofit performing arts organization in a performance for a public school audience (Education Code [48225.5](#))***

***A student may be excused for up to five such absences per school year provided that the student's parent/guardian provides a written explanation of such absence to the school. (Education Code [48225.5](#))***

***14. Other reasons authorized at the discretion of the principal or designee based on the student's specific circumstances (Education Code [48205](#), [48260](#))***

***For the purpose of the absences described above, immediate family means the student's parent/guardian, brother or sister, grandparent, or any other relative living in the student's household. (Education Code [48205](#))***

#### **Method of Verification**

~~When students who have been absent return to school, they must present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence.~~

***Student absence to care for a child for whom the student is the custodial parent shall not require a physician's note. (Education Code [48205](#))***

***For other absences, the student shall, upon returning to school following the absence, present a satisfactory explanation verifying the reason for the absence. Absences shall be verified by the student's parent/guardian, other person having charge or control of the student, or the student if age 18 or older. (Education Code [46012](#); 5 CCR [306](#))***

***When an absence is planned, the principal or designee shall be notified prior to the date of the absence when possible.***

The following methods may be used to verify student absences:

1. Written note, ***fax, email, or voice mail*** from parent/guardian, parent representative, ~~or student if 18 or older. (Education Code [46012](#))~~
2. Conversation, in person or by telephone, between the verifying employee and the student's parent/guardian or parent representative. The employee shall subsequently record the following:
  - a. Name of student.
  - b. Name of parent/guardian or parent representative.
  - c. Name of verifying employee.
  - d. Date(s) of absence.
  - e. Reason for absence.

(cf. [5113.11](#) - Attendance Supervision)

3. Visit to the student's home by the verifying employee, or any other reasonable method which establishes the fact that the student was absent for the reasons stated. ~~A written recording shall be made, including information outlined above.~~ ***The employee shall document the verification and include the information specified in item #2 above.***
4. Physician's verification.
  - a. When excusing students for confidential medical services or verifying such appointments, District staff shall not ask the purpose of such appointments but may ~~contact a medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.~~ ***Request a note from the medical office to confirm the time of the appointment.***
  - b. ~~When a student has had 14 absences in the school year for illness verified by methods listed in #1-3 above, any further absences for illness must be verified by a physician.~~ ***If a student shows a pattern of chronic absenteeism due to illness, District staff may require physician verification of any further student absences.***

(cf. [5113.1](#) - Chronic Absence and Truancy)

### ***Parental Notifications***

***At the beginning of each school year, the Superintendent or designee shall:***

- 1. Notify parents/guardians of the right to excuse a student from school in order to participate in religious exercises or to receive moral and religious instruction at their places of worship, or at other suitable places away from school property designated by a religious group, church, or denomination (Education Code [46014](#), [48980](#))***
- 2. Notify students in grades 7-12 and the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the District that school authorities may excuse any student from school to obtain confidential medical services without the consent of the student's parent/guardian (Education Code [46010.1](#))***
- 3. Notify parents/guardians that a student shall not have a grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence if missed assignments and tests that can reasonably be provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time. Such notice shall include the full text of Education Code [48205](#). (Education Code [48980](#))***

(cf. [5121](#) - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. [5145.6](#) - Parental Notifications)

(cf. [6154](#) - Homework/Makeup Work)

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**WILLIAM S. HART UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Santa Clarita, California