

PURPOSE: To ensure that medical absences are determined by a medical professional without exception.

INTRODUCED BY: Logan Lechner

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE SENATE:

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

The student handbook states that “minor ailments” such as “cramps, headaches, and minor colds” are not a justifiable reason to miss class. This claim is potentially harmful to students.

- A minor cold is often contagious, and the handbook not protecting this as a reason to miss class could lead to the spreading of sickness to other students. Additionally, minor colds can often become a major cold when a student does not get sufficient rest. If a nurse decides that a student would be better off resting in their dorm for the day, then the student should be doing so.
- Cramps and headaches can become very stressful and painful for students, and a nurse should be the one to decide whether a student needs rest. Also, many people suffer with chronic migraines, and the handbook does not account for these students.

All medical decisions regarding school attendance should be decided by a medical professional. The handbook should not make exceptions to this rule. If a student is truly feeling unwell and needs rest, then this should be granted to them with a nurse’s digression.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On page 40 of the Student Handbook (PDF page 46) under the section **Excused Absence from Class for Health Reasons** (STUDENTS WHO BECOME ILL ON CAMPUS:), the following would be changed to:

- A. A student who is ill and expects to be granted an excused absence from first and second period classes must inform the residence hall on-duty staff of his/her illness by 8:00 a.m. and go to the Health Center at the earliest available appointment time, unless otherwise instructed by the office worker. In all cases of illness, students must inform the residence hall desk worker at once. If a student wakes up late for a class or meeting and then requests a Health Center appointment, the student will still receive consequences for the tardy/unexcused absence earned. It is imperative that the student should request an appointment through Residence Life prior to being marked Unverified.

1. The student will be given a Health Center form by the residence hall desk worker to be returned to the residence hall indicating whether the student should (a) attend class, (b) be excused from class, or (c) be referred to an alternate health care provider.

2. A student is not automatically excused from classes just by going to the Health Center by 8:15 a.m. There must also be substantiation from the nurse regarding the seriousness of the illness.

~~3. A minor illness (i.e., cramps, headaches, minor colds) is not considered a justifiable reason to miss class.~~