

PURPOSE: To allow students to email the front office when their teacher is absent instead of physically checking in.

INTRODUCED BY: Caspian Coughlin

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

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

When a teacher is absent, students should have the opportunity to do other things on their schedule instead of physically going to the office to sign in. Right now, students must take time to walk to the office instead of catching up on sleep or working on assignments. The current system is inefficient for both students and the office worker because it takes time out of both their current schedules for no real reason. If a student was allowed to email their attendance it would save both parties a lot of time.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On Handbook Page 43 (PDF Page 48), the following would be changed to:

***This is a brief summation of absences the Mississippi Department of Education deems excused according to Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-9:**

- a. Absences due to authorized school activity. Activities may include field trips, athletic competitions, student conventions, school sanctioned music festivals, and any other similar activity.**
- b. Absences due to illness or injury which prevent the student from being physically able to attend school.**
- c. Absences resulting from a student being required to isolate ordered by a health care professional.**
- d. Absences due to the death or serious illness of an immediate family member (immediate family member defined by MDE as “children, spouse, grandparents, parent, sibling – including stepsiblings).**
- e. Absences due to a pre-arranged medical or dental appointment.**
- f. Absences due to the students’ required attendance in a court proceeding.**
- g. Absences due to religious events essential to ones religion/culture. MDE specifies that approval of absence in this case is within the discretion of the superintendent.**
- h. Absences wherein the purpose of the absence is an educational opportunity. MDE specifies that the educational value must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent or designee.**
- i. Absences due to other “conditions [...] sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child’s nonattendance.” MDE specifies that an excused absence will not be granted to any request with intent to circumvent the spirit of attendance law.**

j. Absences due to attendance of an organized event sponsored by Future Farmers of America (FFA) or the 4-H.

k. Absences from students serving as a page for the MS House or Senate.

l. Absences when the teacher is not present. In this case, a student is allowed to sign in via emailing the front office.