

Attendance Policy

In order to graduate from North Gem High School, a student must complete 46 credits. Completion of a course at North Gem High School will be defined as 65% mastery of the material and attendance to include not more than seven absences per semester. This attendance criteria is based on the theory that prompt and regular attendance in school is the beginning of dependability in adult business, personal, and social life. Furthermore, regular attendance is important, because valuable skills and information gained in the classroom may or may not show up on tests or be reflected in an academic grade. The general welfare of all students is best served by regular attendance.

1. A student will be allowed seven absences per class, per semester. Any absence beyond that number may mean a loss of credit in those subjects missed.
2. The ONLY absences that WILL NOT be used in calculating the attendance record are:
  - A. Those that occur due to school-sponsored activities, since these are considered an equivalent educational experience. These exemptions will apply to students participating in sports events, cheerleading, music related events, FFA trips, academic field trips, and others deemed co-curricular.
  - B. Bereavement in the immediate family (grandmother, grandfather, father, mother, sister, brother). Any extended bereavement may be reviewed by the Attendance Board;
  - C. Subpoenas to appear in court or court-ordered, out-of-district placements for special services; and
  - D. Illness, dental, medical, or hospitalization verified by a doctor's statement.
3. Absences which will be counted in the seven-day limit will include such areas as: family trips, work days, vacations, visiting friends or relatives, suspension in and out of school, watching tournaments when not an actual participant, hair, or photography appointments, skiing, hunting, attending concerts, shopping, or any others not mentioned which are unacceptable to the Attendance Board.
4. After five absences from school/class, a phone call, an email and a letter will be sent to the student's home, indicating the school policy and the number of days missed.
5. After seven absences, another phone call, email and a letter will be sent, indicating the severity of the situation and explaining in detail the alternatives for non-compliance.

6. After going over the seventh absence, the student may have credit withheld. That student, with parental accompaniment, must appear before the Attendance Board, consisting of the high school principal/superintendent, the guidance counselor, and a teacher representative for the classes the student has exceeded the allowable number of absences.
7. The Attendance Board will review the absence report to determine if the student will have credit withheld, which will occur unless extenuating circumstances surface.
8. The Attendance Board can, after hearing a student's/parent's appeal for retention of credit, deny credit or put certain stipulations on a student whose credit will be dependent upon an agreement/contract reached with the student and parents concerning attendance for the rest of the semester.
9. Any decision to withhold credit can be appealed to the Superintendent and/or to the Board of Trustees. If the appeal is rejected, one can assume the Board feels the absence could have been avoided.
10. If the appeal is not granted, the student will remain in that particular class period for the remainder of the semester or be placed in study hall. If disciplinary problems occur in that subject, the student will be suspended from school.
11. If the appeal is granted, the student will return to class with the Attendance Board's stipulations. If the stipulations are violated, a loss of credit will result.
12. The Attendance Board may also decide to make decisions regarding the student's participation in extracurricular activities.

Policy History:

Adopted on: July 17, 2019

Revised on: January 19, 2021

Reviewed on: December 18, 2019