

Compulsory Attendance

The parent or guardian of any child who has attained the age of seven years, but not the age of 16 years shall cause that child to be instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools. Unless the child is otherwise comparably instructed, the parent or guardian shall cause the child to attend a public, private, or parochial school for a period each year equal to that during which the public schools are in session.

Idaho Code 33-202

The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual child. The regular contact of the students with one another in the classroom and their participation in instructional activities under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose. This is an established principle of education that underlies and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in this and every other state in the nation.

Attendance is an indicator of success in school and is necessary for maximum student learning, therefore, all students are expected to be in class on time every school day. Attendance of at least 90% in any class, excluding school activities, is required to be considered for credit. Payette School District defines kindergarten through eighth school attendance as missing not more than four days per quarter and secondary school attendance as missing not more than seven days per class per semester. Students who do not meet the attendance standard may be assigned other consequences. School staff enforces daily attendance and initiates measures to correct attendance problems.

Student absences will be marked under three general categories, absent for a half day or absent for a full day K-5 and by period for grades 6-12. The calculation of average daily attendance (ADA) is defined by Idaho Statue (I.C. 33-101 and IDAPA 08.02.01).

High School Attendance Requirement

Payette School District high school students must attend four periods during a regular school day to be considered a full-time student. With approval of the Superintendent or designee, a student may be released for the following and still be considered full time:

1. One period for religious instruction or other approved program in grades 9-12;
2. Juniors and Seniors may be eligible for one additional release period. The additional period may not be scheduled on the same day as the period allowed for religious instruction or other approved program.

- A. For seniors to be eligible for the additional release periods they must have completed a minimum of 48 credits by the end of the eleventh grade, successfully completed all 9th through 11th grade required credits, and scored proficient or advanced on all portions of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).
- B. For juniors to be eligible for the additional release period they must have completed a minimum of 32 credits by the end of the tenth grade, successfully completed all 9th and 10th grade required credits and score proficient or advanced on all portions of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Additionally, eligible juniors must be enrolled in six or more Advanced Placement and/or Concurrent Credit courses while attending Payette High School.

Excessive Absences or Habitual Truancy

Any child who exceeds the acceptable absences of this policy and/or truancies may be referred to the prosecuting attorney pursuant to Idaho Code 33-206 which states, in part, “a habitual truant is any public school pupil who, in the judgment of the board of trustees repeatedly has violated the attendance regulations established by the board; or any child whose parents or guardians, or any of them, have failed or refused to cause such child to be instructed as provided in section 33-202, Idaho Code, and the child shall come under the purview of the juvenile corrections act if he or she is within the age of compulsory attendance.”

Principals/assistant principals, as the authorized representative of the Board of Trustees, will submit documentation of the excessive absences/truancies to the prosecuting attorney in the county of the student’s residence.

Cross Reference:	2355	Release Time
Legal References:	I.C. § 33-205	Attendance at Schools - Denial of School Attendance

Policy History:
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