

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED: April 16, 2009 FILE SECTOR: RURAL VIRTUAL ACADEMY
DATE REVISED: August 18, 2016 POLICY TITLE: VIRTUAL SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE/
PARTICIPATION

Each student enrolled in the Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) will be required to be in full attendance and communication with the RVA Teacher and/or Administrator. Communication is the key to the success of student achievement in the RVA. It is the inherent responsibility of the student or Home Mentor to contact the RVA Teacher and/or online support teacher to seek additional academic support or to clarify misunderstood information. Frequent communications in the form of one-on-one, on or offsite tutoring, telephone conversations, two-way email correspondence, or interactive online correspondence with the RVA Teacher, Administrator, and/or assigned online instructor constitutes full-time enrollment. Home visits are allowed upon request and students will be required to attend the office of the RVA for occasional mandatory testing, educational, or technical support unless the absence is excused by the RVA Teacher/ Administrator.

Students who are determined to be not in attendance may be considered truant. Prior absences for which written verification was not made to the RVA Administrator of a legal excuse may be counted as truant absences from school. Truant school days refer to any absence of part or all of one or more days from school during which the RVA Administrator has not been notified by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the legal cause of such absence of the student.

As determined by State Statute a student's failure to fully participate will result in the student being removed from the virtual school through the following process:

- Whenever a student attending a virtual charter school fails to respond appropriately to a school assignment or directive from instructional staff within 5 school days, the governing body of the virtual charter school shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- The third time in the same semester that a student attending a virtual charter school fails to respond appropriately to a school assignment or directive from instructional staff within 5 school days, the governing body of the virtual charter school shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), Medford Area Public School District, the school board of the student's resident school district and the department.
- The school board that contracted for the Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) Board of Education may transfer the student to his or her resident school district.

- If the student is a resident of MAPSD, the school board may assign the student to another school or program within that school district.
- If the school board transfers or assigns a student, it shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the department (118.40 (8)(f)(g)).
- The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student transferred to the student's resident school district may appeal the transfer to the department within 30 days after receipt of the notice to transfer.
- The department shall affirm the school board's decision unless the department finds that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable.

Truancy also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of the state attendance statutes. The responsibility for regular school attendance of a student rests upon the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodian(s).

In support of this responsibility, the RVA will extend all possible and appropriate modifications to assist in the successful participation in school for every student. The RVA Teacher will document contact time and maintain accurate attendance data. The RVA Administrator and Governance Board reserve the right to determine effective attendance rates and participation in the program. The RVA Administrator and Governance Board also reserves the right to enforce local attendance policies and dispositions up to and including dismissal of students from the RVA.

CROSS REFERENCE:

LEGAL REFERENCE: §118.15 Compulsory School Attendance, 118.16 School Attendance Enforcement, & 118.40 (8)(g) Pupil's Failure to Participate