

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**DATE ADOPTED:** April 16, 2009      **FILE SECTOR:** RURAL VIRTUAL ACADEMY  
**DATE REVISED:** August 18, 2016      **POLICY TITLE:** VIRTUAL SCHOOL  
**DATE REVISED:** June 27, 2022      **ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**  
**DATE REVISED:** February 24, 2025

Each student enrolled in the Rural Virtual Academy (RVA) will be required to be in full attendance and communication. Communication is the key to the success of student achievement in the RVA. Attendance requirements vary depending upon the type of instructional model each child is participating in ranging from individualized to whole class instruction. Regardless of instructional model, frequent and reciprocal communications in the form of one-on-one, on or offsite tutoring, telephone conversations, two-way email correspondence or interactive online correspondence, participation in scheduled meetings and classes, adequate academic progress and pace in asynchronous courses, or other forms of required attendance and participation with assigned RVA staff constitutes full attendance. It is the responsibility of the RVA parent to request and report student absences to the appropriate school personnel. RVA students may be required to report to an RVA office for occasional mandatory testing, educational or technical support unless the absence is excused by RVA administration or designee.

Students who are determined to be not in attendance may be considered truant and failing to participate with the expectations of the RVA under §118.40 (8)(g)). Prior absences for which written verification was not made to RVA administration or designee of a legal excuse may be counted as truant absences from school and a failure to participate with the expectations of the RVA. Truant school days refer to any absence of part or all of one or more days from school during which the RVA administration or designee has not been notified by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the legal cause of such absence of the student. Parental or guardian failure to notify the school of such absences is a failure to meet the expectations of the RVA.

As determined by §118.40 (8)(g) 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 five 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 (MAPSD), the school board of the student's resident school district and the department.
- The school board that contracted with MAPSD Board of Education (BOE) may transfer the student to their resident school district.

- If the student is a resident of MAPSD, the BOE may assign the student to another school or program within the school district.
- If the school board transfers or assigns a student, it shall notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and the department.
- If the parent or guardian of a pupil attending the RVA notifies the RVA in writing before a school assignment or directive is given that the pupil will not be available to respond to the assignment or directive during a specified period, the school days during that period are excused absences and do not count for purposes determining truancy or a failure to participate.
- The RVA shall require the pupil to complete any assignment missed during the period of an excused absence. This applies to no more than 10 school days in a school year.
- 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 and failing to participate with the expectations of the RVA under §118.40 (8)(g) also includes 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).

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. It is the responsibility of the RVA to document contact time and maintain accurate attendance data. RVA administration and Governance Board reserve the right to determine effective attendance rates and participation in the program. The RVA administration and Governance Board also reserve 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**