

**UNACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR  
STUDENT ABSENCES**

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**Reasons NOT acceptable for being absent from school and are considered truanancies or unexcused absences during the regular school year. A truancy occurs if a student does the following:**

1. Going to work with parent or other family member.
2. Going to the beach, lake, river, mountains or desert.
3. Going to a concert.
4. Getting ready for a date.
5. Babysitting, taking care of other family members.
6. Under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
7. Joyriding or partying.
8. Personal problems.
9. Repairing car or household items.
10. Waiting for service or repair people to arrive.
11. Shopping.
12. Camping.
13. Attending a sporting event.
14. Any other reason not included in "Acceptable Reason for Excused Student Absences."
15. Bus not available/missing bus.
16. Participating in a student demonstration off campus.

**Definitions:**

**Truant** shall mean having incurred three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance (17 and under).

**Habitually truant** shall mean absence for more than three school days or their equivalent following the first notice of truancy.

**Unexcused absence** shall mean an absence from school which is not permitted and for which an approved explanation has not been submitted within 3 days and in the manner prescribed by the governing body. An out-of-school suspension may not be considered an unexcused absence.



**Greater Nanticoke Area  
Senior High School**

## PA Truancy Law



Parent and Student  
INFORMATION PAMPHLET

Greater Nanticoke Area School District  
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**Greater Nanticoke Area School District**

**3 Days Unexcused** ~ Letter sent to parent.

**6 Days Unexcused** ~ 2nd Letter sent to parent informing them of scheduled SAIP meeting.

**Letters sent to parents:**

• **3 day unexcused (truant)**

~Absences are unexcused if a parent note/ Dr. note is not received within 3 days.

• **6 day unexcused (habitually truant)**

~SAIP (Student Attendance improvement Plan)meeting initiated/PASS(Parent and Student Success)

~If SAIP held previous then citation filed, initiating magistrate district hearing at the school.

**10 day letter sent after 10 accumulated absences (excused/unexcused)-informational**

~If all 10 days excused, doctor note required for any additional absences.

**ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR STUDENT ABSENCES**

The types of “legal absences” are as follows:

1. **Illness**– If necessary , a parent will be contacted by the nurse or administrator and the student is given written permission to be excused to go home. The nurse must inform the attendance office of the illness. If a student is unable to attend school due to illness, the student shall submit to the District a written excuse from either his/her parent or licensed physician within three (3) school days after the absence. Failure to submit a written excuse within this timeframe shall result in the absence being recorded as illegal or unexcused . If a student accumulates more than ten (10) absences due to illness during one school year, the school administration shall require the student to provide a medical statement or excuse from a licensed physician for every subsequent absence due to illness. Failure to provide the requested medical excuse shall result in such absence being classified as unexcused and/or illegal depending upon the age of the student.
2. **Death in the family.**
3. **Religious holidays**
4. **Impassible roads.**
5. **Emergency**-school administrator will determine whether a specific circumstance qualifies as an “emergency” on a case-by-case basis.
6. **Delay or absence of school bus.**
7. **Quarantine**
8. **Family Education trip/tour/high school shadow**– Student must obtain a trip form from the principal’s office and have it sign

9. **Court appearance.**
10. **Dental and medical appointment;** Students who leave school for a dental or medical appt. shall submit a note from the parent or an appointment card from the doctor to the school prior to the appointment. The student must obtain written proof from the doctor/dentist that he/she appeared at the appointment , which must be returned to the school upon the students return to school for it to be an excused absence .
11. **Homebound Instruction**– The parent must secure a form from the building principal for the student’s doctor to complete. The form must be returned to the building administrator in charge of attendance. All homebound assignments, books, materials and return of materials must be coordinated through the appropriate counselor.
12. **Weather emergency**– if the Superintendent orders the schools closed, parents are not required to send a written excuse for their child’s absence on that day.
13. **\*College visitation**
14. **\*Junior/Senior excusal for interviews**– When students have a written invitation or appointment to participate in a job interview, college admission, nurses’ training, trade or technical school as well as other post high school plans, they may be excused for a total of (3) days during their Junior/Senior year. The student is to obtain a permission slip from the appropriate guidance counselor and have this completed before the day he/she is to be excused.