

Enrolled
House Bill 2556

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representatives FAHEY, HELT, NERON, RESCHKE,
SOLLMAN (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to excused absences from school; creating new provisions; amending ORS 339.065 and 339.280; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 339.065 is amended to read:

339.065. (1) In estimating regular attendance for purposes of the compulsory attendance provisions of ORS 339.005 to 339.030, 339.040 to 339.125, 339.137, 339.420 and 339.990, the principal or teacher shall consider all unexcused absences. Eight unexcused one-half day absences in any four-week period during which the school is in session shall be considered irregular attendance.

(2)(a) An absence may be excused by a principal or teacher if the absence is caused by:

- (A) The pupil’s sickness[, *by*];
- (B) The sickness of some member of the pupil’s family [*or by*]; or
- (C) An emergency.

(b) **In addition to the reasons identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection, a principal or teacher:**

(A) Shall excuse not more than seven days of absences during the school year if the pupil is a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is on active duty or who is called into active duty. For the purpose of this subparagraph, “Armed Forces of the United States” includes:

- (i) **The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States;**
- (ii) **Reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard of the United States; and**
- (iii) **The National Guard of the United States and the Oregon National Guard.**

(B) May [*also*] excuse absences for other reasons [*where*] **when** satisfactory arrangements are made in advance of the absence.

(3)(a) Any pupil may be excused from attendance by the district school board for a period not to exceed five days in a term of three months or not to exceed 10 days in any term of at least six months. Any such excuse shall be in writing directed to the principal of the school [*which*] **that** the pupil attends.

(b) When calculating the number of excused absences under this subsection, any absences excused under subsection (2)(b)(A) of this section shall not be counted.

SECTION 2. ORS 339.280 is amended to read:

339.280. Each school district board may establish student grading policies that permit teachers to consider a student’s attendance in determining the student’s grade or deciding whether the stu-

dent should be granted or denied credit. A student's attendance shall not be the sole criterion for the reduction of a student's grade. Such policies shall provide that prior to reduction of grade or denial of credit:

(1) The teacher identifies how the student's attendance and participation in class is related to the instructional goals of the particular subject or course and gives notice to the student and parents or guardian of the student.

(2) Procedures are in effect to ensure due process when the grade is reduced or credit is denied for attendance rather than academic reasons.

(3) The reasons for the nonattendance are considered and the grade is not reduced or credit is not denied based on absences due to:

- (a) Religious reasons;
- (b) A student's disability; or
- (c) An excused absence as determined by the policy of the school district **or as provided by ORS 339.065.**

SECTION 3. The amendments to ORS 339.065 and 339.280 by sections 1 and 2 of this 2019 Act first apply to the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect July 1, 2019.

Passed by House April 11, 2019

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate May 23, 2019

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2019

Approved:

.....M,....., 2019

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2019

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Bev Clarno, Secretary of State