

Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program

Excused Absence Policy

To maintain EdChoice Scholarship eligibility for future school years, a scholarship recipient student may not have more than twenty unexcused absences during a single school year. Any absence from school is unexcused unless it is for one of the following approved reasons. All excused absences must be documented as stipulated below. Documentation for excused absences must be maintained in the student file at the chartered nonpublic school.

As adopted by the State Board of Education from Rule 3301-69-02(B)(2) of the Administrative Code, an excused absence from school may be approved on the basis of one or more of the following conditions:

- **Illness or injury of the child.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school. Any absence for illness or injury of the child which exceeds three days absent from school must be certified in writing by a physician or appropriate health professional.
- **Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school stating the nature of the illness and the circumstances which require the presence of the child. Any such absence which exceeds three days absent from school must be certified in writing by a physician or appropriate health professional.
- **Quarantine of the home.** The absence of a child from school under this condition is limited to the length of quarantine as determined and certified in writing by the proper health professionals.
- **Death of a relative.** The absence arising from this condition is limited to a period of three days and must be documented in writing by the parent/guardian of the student. Any absence for this reason in excess of three days must be approved by the Chief Program Officer of the Ohio Educational Choice Scholarship Program.
- **Medical or dental appointment.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school. The chartered nonpublic school may require a written statement from the physician or dentist upon request.
- **Observance of religious holidays.** A child shall be excused for absences for the purpose of observing a religious holiday consistent with his/her truly held religious beliefs. The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school detailing dates of all absences for religious holidays.
- **College visitation.** The parent/guardian must provide documentation from the college, university, or technical college verifying the date and time of the visitation.
- **Emergency or other set of circumstances.** The parent or guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school detailing the emergency circumstances. Any absence for this reason in excess of three days must be approved by the Chief Program Officer of the Ohio Educational Choice Scholarship Program.

In addition, as passed by the Ohio General Assembly (Ohio Revised Code 3321.041), the following is also an excused absence:

- **Out-of-state enrichment activities or extracurricular activities.** A student who is absent from school for the sole purpose of traveling out of state to participate in an enrichment activity approved by the district or school governing body or in an extracurricular activity can have up to four days per school year excused. The parent/guardian must provide documentation to the chartered nonpublic school detailing the dates and reasons for these absences.