



Military Block Leave

BACKGROUND

The following guidelines are intended to create consistency among schools as it relates to military block leave. These guidelines for the 2009-10 school year are to be shared in a publication/document for all families by Nov. 15, 2009. Military Block Leave expectations for schools, families and students will be published in each school's handbook beginning with the 2010-11 school year.

Guidelines will include:

- New language taken from Policy 3122-P1 – Letter E (Absences resulting from military family leave).

Families are discouraged from removing students from school for extended absences. However, family leave due to a deployment is a legitimate exception. In these cases, schools will prepare as much homework as practical for students to complete while away. When homework cannot be produced for students, they will be allowed sufficient time when they return to complete necessary class and homework assignments.

Extended absences can have a negative impact on student grades and assessments. Family leave absences extending beyond 20 consecutive school days require the school district to withdraw students from the school, per state law. Students can be re-enrolled upon return.

MILITARY BLOCK LEAVE

Military Block Leave is a two week leave given to a service member who is deployed overseas. The leave occurs during the deployment, usually at the mid point, and allows the service member to return home to be with his or her family.

- During Block Leave, student absences will be excused so students can be with their families during the time the service member is home.

EXPECTATIONS

Families

- Be aware that when students have extended absences from school, there will be subject matter presented and participation activities that cannot be made-up.
- Families will notify the school two weeks in advance that the student will be absent from school due to a scheduled Block Leave.

- Families will determine how students will acquire the skills and concepts they miss while not attending school from two options.

Option One

Before going on leave, families will obtain, from the school, the materials and activities (as much as possible) that will be taught during the child's absence. School staff will have at least seven days in advance of the leave to prepare the materials related to the course expectations that is reasonable and practical.

Option Two

Families do not request school materials in advance and understand that the student may be asked to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and concepts that he/she missed within five days after returning from leave.

If the student needs additional support after their return to school in the skills and concepts missed, the school may provide the materials needed to support him/her in mastering the skills and concepts. These assignments must be completed within ten school days after returning to school.

Schools

- Schools will inform families of the practices and procedures regarding attendance and absences.
- Schools will prepare student materials according to established procedures.
- Where practical, within five school days after the child returns to school, school staff will review completed student work that has been done during the absence.
- When the student returns, the school may assess the student's level of mastery of the skills and concepts taught during the student's absence.
- The school will provide materials to ensure students acquire the concepts and skills not yet mastered.

Students

- Students are responsible for continuing their learning during Block Leave absences.
- When appropriate, students may need to attend after school programs to complete missed assignments and/or make up content which is critical to their continued learning.