



SEYMOUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 S. Park
Seymour, IA 52590
(641) 898-2291

Scott Valentine, Superintendent

Shannon Starr, PK- 12 Principal

Dear Families,

We are informing you about a recent change in Iowa legislation regarding school attendance outlined in Senate File 2435. Starting immediately, this law is effective for the current 2024-25 school year. It mandates stricter monitoring and reporting of student attendance, enhanced parental notifications, and tailored intervention strategies for students at risk of chronic absenteeism.

In response, our district is upgrading monitoring systems, updating student handbooks, reviewing board policies, revising communication protocols with parents, and expanding student support services to ensure every child attends school regularly.

At Seymour Community School District, consistent attendance is directly linked to successful academic outcomes and overall student well-being. We understand, however, that there are various reasons, both seen and unseen, that can hinder a student's ability to maintain consistent attendance. This is where our partnership with you, the parents and guardians, is invaluable. Please help us by communicating your child's attendance, promptly informing us of any concerns, and supporting the school's policies.

Below, you will find the attendance codes that will be used across all school districts in Iowa. These codes help us define the cause of a student being absent. SF 2435 defines what is exempt and what is not exempt. In addition, any absence that is not exempt counts towards what is defined as chronic absenteeism (10%) and truancy (20%) in a grading period (semester). In JMC, any absence that is not considered exempt will show as "unexcused." JMC is working to update its platform to meet the new law specifications. Below constitutes what is reported to our local county attorney:

- **Chronically Absent (10%):** After 7 days absent in a given semester, a letter will be sent home, and a copy will be sent to the county attorney's office.
- **Chronically Absent (15%):** If a student is 10 days absent in a given semester, we will have a mediation meeting with school representatives and families to devise a plan.
- **Truancy (20%):** 14 days absent in a given semester, the county attorney shall enforce truancy laws.

Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to your children's education.

Sincerely,

Scott Valentine

Code	Reason Definition
SRP	School Related Participant The student participates in field trips, extracurricular, activities, ISASP personal day rewards (MS/HS), etc.
ISS	In School Suspension The student has a consequence in a school setting
Non-Exempt / Unexcused	
SRNP MED OSS	<p data-bbox="456 533 1409 596">School Related Non-Participant Student attended a school-sponsored event but did not participate in attending for a non-family member</p> <p data-bbox="435 630 1421 693">Medical- Non Exempt Parents report student illness or medical reasons without providing a doctor's excuse or excuse from the school nurse.</p> <p data-bbox="435 722 1365 753">Out of School Suspension The student has a consequence outside of the school setting</p>
CV UN FAM	<p data-bbox="508 842 1235 873">College Visit College visits that are not school-directed/ supervised.</p> <p data-bbox="440 905 1414 968">Unexcused Skip class, no parent contact, student employment, family employment, invalid reason</p> <p data-bbox="529 999 1317 1031">Family Leave Vacation, Parent Excused, Family Emergency, Car Trouble</p>
SOV	School Office Visit Nurse, Counselor, Principal, etc.
GRDX	Completed Graduate The student has met all graduate requirements
CRTX	Court Exempt Anything Court Ordered: Juvenile officer, Court date, incarceration, etc.
RELX	Religious Exempt Religious Services and Instructions
MEDX	Medical Exempt Written medical doctor excuse or the nurse has excused the student.
IEPX	IEP Exempt Anything documented in IEP or absent due to meetings or services.
504X	504 Exempt Anything documented in 504 or absent due to meetings or services.