

STUDENTS ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

A. Excuse from School

State law requires that children of compulsory school age (at least six (6) years old by the first day of September and not yet eighteen (18) years old and/or GED exempt) must regularly attend some public or nonpublic school, unless excused from school attendance by the school board. All requests for excused absences from school must be in writing. A child will be excused from school attendance if a child is provided with alternative instruction for an equivalent period of time as in the public schools in the basic skills of language arts and mathematics. Any parent or guardian of a child of compulsory school age may request that the child be excused from school attendance. The form for requests for a child to be provided with alternative instruction is provided by the State Department and may be obtained from the superintendent. The request for alternative instruction must be filed annually.

The Garretson School Board hereby authorizes the board president to approve any request for alternative instruction if approval is recommended by the superintendent. Any person seeking an excuse from school attendance for alternative instruction which is not recommended for approval by the superintendent may present the request at the next regularly scheduled or special school board meeting. The superintendent or board president may refer any requests for excuse from school to the full board for action.

A child so excused from school shall take any test(s) required by state law. Any student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age need not be excused from school in order to receive alternative instruction. A permanent record of all certificates of excuse shall be kept in a safe place as designated by the school board.

B. Reenrollment in School

1. **Elementary Students:** Any child of compulsory school age, who has been receiving alternative instruction in an unaccredited setting, seeking enrollment in the Garretson School District, shall be placed at the child's demonstrated level of proficiency established by the district's standardized tests. The child's placement may not be at a grade level higher than warranted by the child's chronological age, assuming entry to the first grade at age six (6) years and annual grade advancement thereafter. The standardized test shall be administered by school personnel and scored as required by the test protocols.
2. **Secondary Students:** Any student who has been receiving alternative instruction in an unaccredited setting and seeks enrollment in the Garretson School District in grades nine (9) or above, shall be placed in the grade level established by standardized English and mathematics tests, to be administered by the district. The student shall be assigned the minimum passing credit for the grade levels associated with the standardized tests.

The student may request credit for any other subject equivalent to a subject provided by the Garretson School District. The high school principal shall review the student's alternative instruction transcript and may award credits based upon the student's performance on teacher-made tests provided to students in similar courses in the schools. Any such credits so awarded shall count towards the student's required credits for graduation.

C. Appeals of Decisions

Any parent, guardian, or eighteen (18) year old student aggrieved by a grade or credit determination may, pursuant to this policy, appeal the determination to the school board. Decisions made by the school board under this policy may be appealed to the Secretary of the Department of Education and Cultural Affairs, pursuant to SDCL 13-27-8.

LEGAL REFS.: SDCL 13-27-3, 7, 8, 9, and 29.

CROSS REF.: JECAA

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