

NEW ENGLAND PANS/PANDAS ASSOCIATION

Excused Absences

www.nepans.org

Excused Absences

Students with PANS are medically fragile. As such, students with PANS may be absent from school more than 9 times a year. Therefore, when absences are medically necessary, they can obtain excused medical absences from their doctor and should not be counted as truant. Some students will be absent sporadically while others will need to be absent from school for longer period of times. The School Nurse, staff, parent, medical doctor should collaborate to determine plans for frequent but sporadic missed days as well as extended absences. Please note that under some circumstances extended absences will require Home Bound instruction.

Resource Links

Connecticut

CT SDE – Excused Absences Guidelines

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/publications/guidelines_excused_and_unexcused_absences.pdf

A student's absence from school shall be considered excused if written documentation of the reason for the absence has been submitted within ten school days of the student's return to school or in accordance with Section 10-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes and meets the following criteria:

B. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school are considered excused for the following reasons:

1. student illness (Note: all student illness absences must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional to be deemed excused, regardless of the length of absence)

Best Practices in Documentation of Absences

Districts can take some of the following steps to improve overall attendance and compliance to attendance policies:

1. **Leveraging school nurses:** *School nurses can be a great resource in dealing with medical related absences.* Using their expertise can especially benefit those students who have limited access to medical professionals

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Maine

Maine DOE - Chapter 128-Truants & Dropouts-Guidelines

www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/05/071/071c128.doc

Massachusetts

Mass BOE- Attendance and Dropout Reporting Guidelines

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/sims/attendance.pdf>

New Hampshire

NH DOE Technical Advisory-Truancy

<http://education.nh.gov/standards/documents/truancy.pdf>

Rhode Island

RI BOE - Compulsory Attendance

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/title16/16-19/16-19-1.htm>

Vermont

Vermont Agency of Education – Excused Absences Defined

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Data_Collection_Elementary_Secondary_School_Register.pdf