



## K-12 Military-Connected Absence Request Form

This form must be complete and submitted to the principal prior to the absence in order for the absences to be considered excused.

MCS recognizes that there are unique circumstances that impact active duty families. Children of active duty service members are provided the opportunity to request excused absence for specific military situations including:

- an excused absence for the day of the deployment/redeployment and up to 5 days post deployment. Principals may request leave form,
- an excused absence to attend a parent's, step-parent's, or guardian's Chain of Command or Change of Responsibility Ceremony,
- an excused absence to attend a parent's, step-parent's, or guardian's promotion or retirement ceremony,
- and additional situations on a case-by-case basis may be considered, if the child is in good academic standing, has not accumulated excessive absences, and the dates do not impact testing.

Moore County Schools will accommodate active duty families as long as the total number of excused and unexcused absences does not exceed the maximum number of allowed absences outlined by the following laws and policies:

- N.C.G.S. "§ 115c-379.1 - Excused Absences for Children of Certain Members of the Armed Forces
- N.C.G.S. § 115C-407.5 - Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- MCS Board of Education Policies, Section 6000
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fort Bragg and MCS

### REQUEST FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED ABSENCE TO BE EXCUSED

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of proposed absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of return to school: \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of days of school to be missed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly describe the circumstances for nonattendance :

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### AGREEMENT:

As the parent or guardian, I will comply with the State Board of Education's policy regarding this absence for my child. I will also supervise the completion of any assignments as required by the teacher and/or principal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved

Not Approved



**PART I. EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 115C-379 reads as rewritten: "§ 115C-379. Method of enforcement.**

(a) It shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to formulate the rules that may be necessary for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Part. The Board shall prescribe (i) what shall constitute unlawful absence, (ii) what causes may constitute legitimate excuses for temporary nonattendance due to a student's physical or mental inability to attend or a student's participation in a valid educational opportunity such as service as a legislative page or a Governor's page, and (iii) under what circumstances teachers, principals, or superintendents may excuse pupils for nonattendance due to immediate demands of the farm or the home in certain seasons of the year in the several sections of the State.

(b) In addition to any excused absences authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the rules shall require school principals to authorize the following excused absences:

(1) a Religious observance. – A **minimum of two** excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of a student or the student's parent(s) or legal guardian.

(2) Military leave. – A **minimum of two** excused absences each academic year, if all of the following conditions are met:

a. The student's parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by Article 29B of this Chapter, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

b. The student's parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. Page 2 Senate Bill 230-Ratified

c. The student is not identified by the local school administrative unit as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences.

The rules may require that the student's parents give parent or legal guardian give the principal written notice of the request for an excused absence a reasonable time prior to the religious observance or military leave. The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance or military leave.

(c) It shall be the duty of all school officials to carry out such instructions from the State Board of Education, and any school official failing to carry out such instructions shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor: Provided, that the compulsory attendance law herein prescribed shall not be in force in any local school administrative unit that has a higher compulsory attendance feature than that provided herein."

**§ 115C-407.5. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.** The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

E. Absence as related to deployment activities – A student whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined by the compact, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the local education agency superintendent to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or guardian.

**MCS Board of Education Policies, Section 6000**

**B. Excused Absences**

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a physician. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s);
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval by the principal;
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary; or
9. visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by Policy 6024 – Military Children Enrollment and Placement, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

Students in grades 9-12 who are absent from a class more than eight (8) days during a semester course shall not receive credit for the semester or year where applicable. The maximum numerical grade recorded for such a student for the semester or for the year shall be fifty (50).

In the case of excused absences, any short-term out-of-school suspensions and absences under G.S. 130A-440 (for failure to submit a school health assessment form within 30 days of entering school), the student will be permitted to make up his or her work (see Policy 6021 – Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, and Policy 6515 – Due Process). The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.