

MEMORANDUM SRS-486

To: School Board Members

FROM: Office of the Superintendent

DATE: March 24, 2009

SUBJECT: School Board Policy 5121 Review

On November 2, 2006 the current Board Policy Manual was adopted in its entirety from the Alaska Associations of School Board's (AASB) template with changes to match former District policies and procedures.

Board Policy (BP) 5121 contains the following language regarding Unexcused Absences which was a major change from previous policy and practice:

The Board desires to emphasize the importance of school attendance. Therefore, students with excessive unexcused absences (12 absences per semester) shall receive a failing grade and shall not receive credit for the class(es).

At several times this year, the Student Support Specialist who manages the PowerSchool Student Information System sent lists of student names to the sites regarding those students who were demonstrating a pattern of UNEXCUSED ABSENCES that would lead to the removal of credit.

However, at the end of the first semester, there are a number of students who have crossed the 12 unexcused absence limit in one or more courses.

Koliganek	1
Manokotak	4
New Stuyahok	10
Togiak	34

There are a fair number of students who are in jeopardy of crossing the 12 unexcused absence mark before the end of the year based on their current 3rd quarter attendance rates.

The Togiak Alternative Program does not focus on student attendance, however, attendance data on those students is being kept. This documents a high number of students who would be impacted by this policy.

All grades and credit earned have been entered at the end of each quarter and semester by each classroom teacher. While excessive absences may effect a student's ability to perform well within the courses which in turn will be documented by a lower grade, it does not appear that this policy has been implemented at all instances at the schools as written.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure.

- 1) Motion to change School Board Policy 5121 in FIRST READING... ; or**
- 2) Motion to waive School Board Policy 5121 for students participating in the Togiak Alternative Program; or**
- 3) Motion to waive School Board Policy 5121 for all high school students for the 2008-2009 school year.**