

ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: TEMPORARY MEDICAL
 EXCUSALS
ADOPTED: 2/24/11
REVISED: 8/27/15

204.1. TEMPORARY MEDICAL EXCUSALS

Section 1: Purpose

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code and State Board of Education regulations, the ASD Board will approve requests for excusals from the compulsory school attendance requirements of Pennsylvania where a treating physician recommends that such is necessary based on a child's medical condition. After the Board approves the request for excusal from the compulsory school attendance requirements, the request must be sent to and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education before the excusal from compulsory school attendance becomes final. SC 1329

Temporary Medical Excusals (TMEs) may not be used as a way to avoid compulsory school attendance and must be based on a doctor's recommendation. The Allentown School District may require parental consent to verify a Temporary Medical Excusal recommendation with a recommending physician.

Section 2: Eligibility

A Temporary Medical Excuse (TME) is a "temporary excusal from school for urgent medical or other reasons," made pursuant to School Code Section 1329 and Pennsylvania Code Title 22, Section 11.25. A TME may be provided on a limited basis when a student's physician, psychiatrist or other medical professional certifies that it is impossible for a student to attend any type of educational programming outside the home. If the student's school program can be modified to accommodate his/her needs, a TME is not appropriate.

An approved TME shall not exceed three (3) months without the recommendation of the school physician and the approval of the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education.

Students and/or parents must obtain a Temporary Medical Excusal Form from the school office. The form must be filled out completely and must contain the necessary medical certification.

Section 3: Tutoring During Temporary Medical Excusals

At the District's discretion, tutoring in the home during a TME period may be provided. The Board will provide individual tutoring only for those confinements expected to last at least four (4) weeks.

Tutoring during a TME is not intended to take the place of a regular or special educational program obtained through regular school attendance and is not an educational placement. The purpose of tutoring during a TME is to maintain current skill levels and prevent regression, if possible, until the student can return to school. A student receiving TME academic support remains on the school rolls and is marked in attendance based on one (1) hour of TME academic support equals one (1) school day. Every effort will be made to ensure that academic progress is made; however, course credit must continue to be earned according to class requirements.

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The District shall develop guidelines that set forth specific criteria and requirements for tutoring eligibility during a TME and provision of tutoring services during the TME. The Board reserves the right to withhold individual tutoring when the instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the student or teacher, or when a parent or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of tutoring. SC 1329; Pa. Code Title 22, Sec. 11.25.

Section 4: Participation in Co-curricular and/or Extracurricular Activities

Students on TMEs shall not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular, co-curricular or after-school activities or events while on a TME excuse. Permission for exceptions must be submitted to and approved by the Superintendent or designee.

Section 5: A Temporary Medical Excusal (TME) is NOT a Special Education Placement

In some cases, a student may receive special education instruction, Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), in the home through his/her Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This is called "instruction in the home" and is NOT the same as a TME. "Instruction in the home" is a placement within the special education continuum that may be chosen by an IEP team when an eligible student cannot properly receive FAPE in any other setting. A special education placement in the home (or "instruction in the home") can be obtained only by going through the normal IEP process. Any placement determination, including a placement of "instruction in the home," must be determined to be appropriate by the IEP team, and an IEP must be implemented that is specifically designated for such a placement. The nature of "instruction in the home," as well as the process for obtaining such instruction, is distinctly different from a TME.