

Below is the summary from the March 12 School Council meeting regarding a proposed adjustment to current attendance policy in which credit is withheld for students with greater than 9 unexcused absences in a class per semester.

➤ **Attendance Policy:** The current attendance policy allows students to have 9 unexcused absences before losing credit in a course for the semester. Part of the school's accountability rating is based on its rate of chronic absenteeism (A student being absent 10% (18 days) or more of the school year. Our current policy allows students to be absent in a full year course 18 days or 10% of the school year.

- **Loss of Class of Credit:** Admn made the recommendation to reduce the number of UNEXCUSED ABSENCES from 9 to 7 before credit is lost from a class. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Mr. Testa explained the rationale for reducing the number of unexcused absences. With the high school's schedule, a class meets approximately 60 times in a semester. Currently our policy allows for a student to be out of a class much more than the 10% measure set by the state. By dropping this to 7, it makes the policy more in line with the school's effort to reduce chronic absenteeism.

The Council felt the proposal seemed reasonable to have the number of unexcused absences drop to 7 recognizing that this comes to approximately 10% of the class meetings.

Rourke mentioned how it would be interesting to see if there are certain blocks in which more students lose credit due to attendance. Admn mentioned first period classes tend to have the greatest impact.