MINISTERIAL INSTRUCTION

NO 4 STUDENTS EXCUSED FROM DAILY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Statement

This Ministerial Instruction specifies the circumstances in which a school-aged child or youth is excused from attendance at school, which are in addition to those circumstances identified in sections 19 and 36 the Education Act 2016.

Date published: 24 February 2020
Ministerial Instruction No 4 Students Excused from Daily Attendance at School

I. Jeremy Rockliff, being the Minister for Education and Training, make the following instruction pursuant to section 6 and for the purposes of sections 19 and 36 of the Education Act 2016.

1. Purpose

1.1 To specify the circumstances in which a school-aged child or youth is excused from attendance at school.

2. Scope

This Instruction applies to State schools and non-government schools; and home educated school-aged children who are enrolled on a part-time basis in a school, but only in relation to those times the home educated school-aged child is enrolled to attend that school.

This Instruction comes into effect on 7 February 2020.

3. Instructions

3.1. Excusable Circumstances

3.1.1. In addition to the circumstances set out in sections 19 and 36 of the Education Act 2016 the principal may permit a school-aged child or youth to be excused from attendance at a school for a period the principal considers reasonable in the following circumstances:

   a. bereavement of a person with whom the school-aged child or youth has a close, significant or family relationship; or

   b. medical, legal or related appointments; or

   c. where the school-aged child or youth has witnessed or been subjected to family violence; or

   d. terminal illness of an immediate family member; or

   e. where a natural disaster or extreme weather event prevents:
      i. school-aged child or youth from a non-government school safely attending their enrolled school; or
      ii. a school-aged child or youth from a State school safely attending their enrolled school or nearest State school; or

   f. recognised (i.e. a National or International level event sanctioned and organised by the official governing body) sporting, academic or cultural event as:
      i. a participant (e.g. as a contestant or competitor); or
ii. an official of a team or other body, competing or participating in that event (e.g. coach, team manager); or

iii. an official otherwise engaged in that event (e.g. as an umpire/referee or steward); or

g. Where an independent student or parent objects, as a matter of conscience, to his or her school-aged child or youth participating in a school activity specified in the Education Regulations 2017; and

i. the independent student or parent notifies the school’s principal in writing at least 2 days in advance of that school activity occurring; and

ii. that activity will occur for at least 1 full school day; and

iii. separate supervision of the school-aged child or youth is not possible; or

h. Where an application for home education has been received by the Registrar and provisional registration has been granted.

i. Where a school-aged child or youth has been directed to stay at home as a result of advice from the Director of Public Health.

3.1.2. A school-aged child or youth is excused from attendance at a school where the Minister for Education and Training is satisfied that it is in the best interests of the school-aged child or youth to be excused from attendance at a school.

3.2. Accompanying Evidence

3.2.1. A principal may request evidence from an independent student, or parent of a school-aged child or youth where a school-aged child or youth seeks to be excused from daily attendance. The type of evidence that may be requested will vary depending on circumstances, but may include any or a combination of:

a. a medical certificate by an qualified or authorised medical / allied health professional; or

b. statutory declaration from a parent; or

c. notice of provisional registration for home education; or

d. evidence of a school-aged child’s or youth’s participation in a sporting, academic or cultural event.

4. Definitions

As per the Education Act 2016.

**Independent student means** a school-aged child or youth who is living independently from his or her parents.
5. Details

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minister Authorisation:</th>
<th>Jeremy Rockliff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date authorised:</td>
<td>7 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Officer Business Unit:</td>
<td>Education Act Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Business Unit email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edact@education.tas.gov.au">edact@education.tas.gov.au</a></td>
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6. History of Changes

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