

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ABSENCES—FM(LOCAL)**

The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the Board.

A student shall be allowed 15 absences in a school year for extracurricular activities (*referred to in administrative procedures as initial extracurricular days*). The District shall permit five additional absences for participation in extracurricular activities if a student maintains an average of at least 85 in each of his or her courses, including dual credit courses (*referred to in administrative procedures as additional extracurricular days*).

Absences for qualified participation in state or national activities shall not be counted against a student's permitted absences (*referred to in administrative procedures as state extracurricular days*).

The District shall not permit a student to participate in any extracurricular activity if the student's participation in the extracurricular activity would result in the student exceeding the number of extracurricular absences allowed by this policy.

*General administrative procedures regarding travel, meal allowances and lodging once past district competition and exceeding 100 miles.*

1. Hotel rooms and meal allowances will only be provided after district competition and when it is 100 miles or greater from the school.
  - a. Lodging expenses shall be paid by the district at the actual cost not to exceed \$75 per student per day. Students of the same gender and approximate age shall share a room, but sponsors should be reasonable and not overcrowd hotel rooms.
  - b. Meals provided by the hotel must be used if available.

Competition Level	Number of Meals	Student Meal Allotment
Bi-District	1	\$8.00
Area	1	\$8.00
Regional	1 or 2	\$8.00L/\$10.00D (\$18.00)
State/National	3	\$7.00B/\$8.00L/\$10.00D (\$25.00)

*Administrative procedures for state or national activities using state extracurricular absences not be counted against a student's initial or additional extracurricular days:*

2. Determining the number of state extracurricular days allowed for travel and participation in state events or voting delegates in national FFA activities.
  - a. Less than 100 miles will allow one state extracurricular day to travel and compete in a state or national activity (1 day).
  - b. Radius of 100-349 miles may permit one to 1.5 state extracurricular days for travel and competition depending on start/end time of state or national activity contest.
    - i. If the contest begins before 10:00 am, may leave after school prior to the contest day with overnight stay before the contest day (1 day).
    - ii. If the contest begins after noon, travel will occur on the contest day and only one day/absence will be needed (1 day).
    - iii. If the contest ends after 7:00 pm, will allow overnight stay after the contest. Students would be expected to be back in school by noon on the return travel day (1.5 days).
  - c. Radius of 350-649 miles will allow one extracurricular state days for travel and one extracurricular state day for the qualified participation in state or national activity contest. If competition is spread over more than one day and further competition is dependent on a win or advancement from previous day or contest,

an additional extracurricular state absence may be awarded along with an additional overnight stay if the contest ends after 4:00 PM.

- d. Radius of 650-900 miles will permit up to two extracurricular state days for travel to qualified participation in state or national activities plus the contest day using an extracurricular state absence. Using some of the same criteria outlined above, these rare trips will be planned after determining contest beginning and ending times (~~4 days~~).
- e. Contests held on Saturday or on a school holiday will be counted in calculating the total number of extracurricular state day for travel and competition.
- f. Additional days or absences taken for practice meets (other than travel/competition absence allotments listed above) leading up to the state or national competition will count against the student's initial extracurricular absences of 15 or the additional extracurricular absences of 20 (with written permission and grade average requirements).
- g. State and national practice events exceeding these standard state extracurricular absences allowances will count against the student's initial extracurricular absences of 15 or the additional extracurricular absences of 20 (with written permission and grade average requirements).

### 3. Determining Team and Alternates Allowed to Use Qualified State Extracurricular Absences

- a. In the event that one student has qualified or elected for state/national competition, one friend of the same gender may accompany him or her on the trip. The accompanying student (not a participant) must use some of the initial 15 or additional 20 allowed extracurricular absences for this trip.
- b. For UIL Academic Events consisting of three to five contestants per school/team, up to two alternates are permitted on the official entry form for anticipated illness or other circumstances beyond the sponsor's control. For the use of state extracurricular absences, these numbers will be used to determine the number of students permitted to "participate" for all extracurricular activities including 4-H, FFA, and Academics, and Band.
  - i. With a team total of three, up to five students may attend.
  - ii. With a team of four, up to six students may attend.
  - iii. With a team of five, up to seven students may attend.
  - iv. Student participants exceeding the team/alternate numbers above may be permitted to go assuming that extra lodging will not be needed and they have either the initial 15 extracurricular absences or the additional 20 to use for the absences.
- c. For some athletic team events, the number of students needed to provide a practice team will be permitted to attend. For individual events with only one qualified contestant, a "friend" of the same gender may accompany the participant and coach. Students managers that assisted the team and coach throughout district play will also be permitted to accompany the team.
  - i. A Football team consisting of twelve to fifteen members would be a reasonable number of participants for a team advancing to a state playoff game. This number was determined by following the junior high plan to move up sixth grade students. In the junior high plan, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students may participate if there are less than 12 seventh and eighth grade students reporting the first day of the season. Grade level classification might also be a consideration when determining who may use state extracurricular days if some JV players are moved up after district play has ended.
  - ii. A Cross Country team consists of a minimum of five contestants and a maximum of seven participants. With three alternates, that could be a total of 7-10 "participants." Travel plans for an individual or individuals qualifying for state will be made using criteria outlined above using traveling distance and the number of students qualifying as a team or individuals.

- iii. A Basketball team consisting of ten to twelve members would be a reasonable number of participants for a team advancing to a state tournament. If the number of students on the varsity team during district play exceeds twelve, all would be permitted to attend using state/national extracurricular days. This number was determined by following the junior high plan to move up sixth grade students. In the junior high plan, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students may participate if there are less than 10 seventh and eighth grade students reporting the first day of the season. Grade level classification might also be a consideration when determining who may use state extracurricular days if some JV players are moved up after district play has ended.
- iv. Tennis has probable combinations advancing with singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Mixed doubles would be viewed as individuals, and a “friend” of the same gender may accompany them unless others of the same gender advanced in singles or doubles.
- v. Track has probable relay teams consisting of four members and numerous individual events that could advance to the state level needing state extracurricular absences. With a relay team, up to two alternates would be permitted to attend utilizing state extracurricular days. Based on the individual(s) that may qualify for state, a “friend” of the same gender may accompany him/her using the initial 15 or additional 20 extracurricular absences.
- vi. Baseball team consisting of 12-15 players that played during district play would be the general number of students expected to be using state extracurricular days.
- vii. A Golf team consists of a minimum of four to and a maximum of five participants. With two alternates, that could be a total of 6-7 “participants.” Travel plans for an individual or individuals qualifying for state will be made using criteria outlined above using traveling distance and the number of students qualifying as a team or individuals.