

Christopher Wilson, Chairman
Karen Vibert, Vice-Chairman
Karen Bourassa, Secretary
Lawrence Amra
Genard Dolan
Jill Fitzgerald
Karen Hintz
Jeffrey Morgan
Thomas P. O'Brien



Ellen W. Solek, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Susan Kalt Moreau, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent

P.O. Box 450
BRISTOL, CT 06011-0450

September 17, 2012

Dear Bristol Schools Parent/Guardian,

This letter is intended to explain new legislation regarding student attendance in school. In June, 2012, the Connecticut legislature revised section 10-198a regarding truancy, and excused and unexcused absences.

A note from the parent/guardian will be required after each absence. The note must include the days of absence and the reason for the absence and be signed by the parent/guardian within 10 days of the absence.

A distinction is made based upon the number of total days of absence as noted below:

- A. For absences one through nine, a student's absences from school are considered excused when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence and submits appropriate documentation, including a signed note.
- B. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, the following are considered excused absences:
 1. student illness – verified by a licensed medical professional regardless of the length of absence;
 2. Religious observance;
 3. Death in family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
 4. Mandated court appearances (documentation required);
 5. Lack of transportation that is normally provided;
 6. Extraordinary education opportunities pre-approved by the school administrator;
 7. Out-of-School suspension

Absences for other than the listed reasons are considered unexcused/truant.

When students are not in school, they miss important learning opportunities. Please make every effort to have your child at school, on time, every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kalt Moreau".
Susan Kalt Moreau, Ph.D.