



When Students are unable to attend school for 10 or more days: Information for Families

We understand that life circumstances such as travel, illness, or family emergencies can sometimes make it difficult for students to attend school for extended periods of time. To help you navigate these situations, this guidance provides clarity on Oregon's **10 day inactive policy** and how student enrollment is impacted by a prolonged absence and what you can do to support your student. This resource provides an overview to help you communicate with the school as soon as possible, understand the 10 day inactive policy, and explore learning options while your student is away from school.

What Should You Do?

1. **Communicate with your school:** If you know your student will be absent for an extended period, reach out to your school immediately. The school can work with you to determine the best plan for keeping your student engaged in their education.
2. **Explore available options:** Ask your school about **virtual learning** or **other applied learning projects** to ensure your student can stay on track during a prolonged absence.
3. **Plan for re returning to active enrollment:** If your student must move to an inactive status due to the 10 day policy, returning to active status is typically a simple process. The school will help guide you through these steps.

What Is the 10-Day Inactive Policy?

In Oregon, if a student is absent for **10 consecutive school days** without any academic engagement (whether in-person or virtual), schools are required by state law to **remove** the student from active enrollment. For an extended, known absence, when this occurs depends on when notification of the absence is received by the school. This ensures that schools report enrollment accurately, as it directly affects how schools receive state funding.

- It is important to note that this policy is *not* intended to be punitive. It is simply a requirement for schools to comply with state funding guidelines. The policy is **not** a reflection on the student's commitment to learning or a family's circumstances.

How Does the Policy Work?

- **Inactive status:** After 10 consecutive days of absence without academic engagement, schools must remove a student from active enrollment for state reporting.
- **Returning to active status:** Once the student is ready to return to school, returning to active status is often a quick and straightforward process. You can reach out to the school to facilitate your student's return to their school routine.

Options for Extended Absences

If your student will be absent for an extended period, but you have access to the Internet or other communication tools, it may be possible to keep them academically engaged during their physical absence. Some districts provide



virtual/distance learning options, allowing students to continue participating in their education remotely. This can help your scholar remain enrolled and engaged in learning every day, even while not physically present in the classroom.

Each school district handles prolonged absences differently, so we encourage you to contact your school as soon as possible to discuss the options available. Your school may offer:

- **Online assignments or virtual participation** through various education platforms
- **School work/projects** that can be completed independently, while also maintaining substantive interactions with your student's teacher(s) each day. Substantive interactions are *ways to show that a student is actively involved in learning*, even if they're not in the classroom. Here are a few examples; there may be other similar ways that show students are staying engaged with their schoolwork:
 - **Participating in a video class:** Actively joining and taking part in an online class or video lesson.
 - **Two-way communication with a teacher:** Having a meaningful back-and-forth conversation with a teacher through chat, text message, a communication app, or email.
 - **Phone calls:** Having a longer phone call with the teacher or educational staff. For younger students, this can include phone calls between the teacher and the parent or guardian.

By staying academically engaged through these methods, your scholar may be able to maintain an active enrollment status during a prolonged absence. However, if engagement is not possible, the school must follow the state's policy to move a student to an inactive status.

Supporting Students During Absences

We understand that absences, whether planned or unexpected, can pose challenges for families. Our priority is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to continue their education, even when they cannot be physically present at school. The **10 day inactive policy** is a state requirement, and we are committed to working with you to find solutions that support your student's learning.

Please don't hesitate to contact your local school, school district office or ODE with any questions or concerns regarding your student's attendance or the 10-day policy.

More resources: Visit your school district's website for more information or visit Every-Day-Matters.org