



**Cooper High School**  
**EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**\*\*MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO ABSENCE\*\***

Please read KRS 159.035 prior to completing this request form. Note highlighted areas.

159.035 Participation in 4-H activities and ten days of military basic training to be considered attendance – Excused absence for educational enhancement – Appeal of denial of excused absence – Exception for testing periods – Excused absence for deployment and return days of parent or guardian on active duty – Excused absence to visit parent or guardian on R and R.

- 1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute, any student in a public school who is enrolled in a properly organized 4-H club shall be considered present at school for all purposes when participating in regularly scheduled 4-H club educational activities, provided, the student is accompanied by or under the supervision of a county extension agent or the designated 4-H club leader for the 4-H club educational activities participated in.
- 2) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute, any student in a public school shall be considered present for all purposes for up to ten (10) days while attending basic training required by a branch of the United States Armed Forces.
- 3) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of the subsection, **a public school principal shall give a student an excused absence of up to ten (10) school days to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity determined by the principal to be a significant educational value, including but not limited to participation in an education foreign exchange program or an intensive instructional, experiential, or performance program in one (1) of the core curriculum subjects of English, science, mathematics, social studies, foreign language or the arts.**
  - (a) **A student receiving an excused absence under this subsection shall have the opportunity to make up school work missed and shall not have his or her class grade adversely affected** for lack of class attendance or class participation due to the excused absence.
  - (b) Educational enhancement opportunities under this subsection **shall not include nonacademic extracurricular activities, but may include programs not sponsored by the school district.** If a request for an excused absence to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity is **denied** by the school principal, **a student may appeal the decision to the director of pupil personnel**, who shall make a determination whether to uphold or alter the decision of the principal. A principal shall make their determinations based

on the provision of this subsection and the district's school attendance policies adopted in accordance with KRS 158.070 and KRS 159.150.

- (c) **A student receiving an excused absence under the provisions of this subsection shall be considered present in school** during the excused absence for the purposes of calculating average daily attendance as defined by KRS 157.320 under the Support Education Excellent in Kentucky program.
- (d) **A student shall not be eligible to receive an excused absence under the provisions of this subsection for an absence during a school's testing window established for assessments of the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System under KRS 158.6453 or during a testing period established for the administration of additional district-wide assessments at the school**, except if a principal determines that extenuating circumstances make an excused absence to pursue an educational enhancement opportunity appropriate.
- 4) (a) If student's parent, de facto custodian, or other person with legal custody or control of the student is a member of the United States Armed Forces, including a member of a state National Guard or a Reserve component called to federal active duty, a public school principal shall give the student:
  1. An excused absence for one (1) day when the member is deployed;
  2. An additional excused absence for one (1) day when the service member returns from deployment; and
  3. Excused absences for up to ten (10) days for visitation when the member is stationed out of the country and is granted rest and recuperation leave.
- (b) A student receiving an excused absence under this subsection shall have the opportunity to make up school work missed and shall not have his or her class grades adversely affected for lack of class attendance or class participation due to the excused absence.
- (c) A student receiving an excused absence under this subsection shall be considered present in school during the excused absence for the purposes of calculating average daily attendance as defined by KRS 157.320 under the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky program.

**Effective:** July 15, 2016

**History:** Amended 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 47, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2016; and ch. 128, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2016. -- Amended 2009 Ky. Acts ch. 18, sec. 1, effective July 25, 2009; and ch. 101, sec. 10, effective March 25, 2009. -- Amended 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 252, Pt. XXVIII, sec. 9, effective April 25, 2006. -- Amended 2004 Ky. Acts ch. 87, sec. 1, effective July 13, 2004. -- Amended 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 476, Pt. IV, sec. 217, effective July 13, 1990. -- Created 1960 Ky. Acts ch. 245, sec. 1.

**Legislative Research Commission Note (7/15/2016).** This statute was amended by 2016 Ky. Acts ch. 47 and 128 with identical text and have been codified together.

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Opportunity: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Organization (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name, Address, Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Curricular Area: (Check one)  English  Science  Mathematics  Social Studies  Foreign Language  the Arts

Description of the significant educational value of this enhancement opportunity: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Expectation: Students are responsible for all make up work during this absence. In addition, students must submit one page summary of learning per day absent to the attendance point of contact in order to receive the EHO status. (see KRS 159.035 (2)(a))

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval  Denial\* Principal signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reason for denial: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signatures: (I am aware that this student has been excused for purposes of an educational enhancement opportunity.)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note (Upon Approval):** For attendance record keeping and student grading purposes, the student above shall be considered present. KRS 159.035 (2) (d)