

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

STEM EDUCATION

10-Day Rule

The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) Subchapter 17, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Programs, 210:35-17-2 (a)(3)(A), states, "The maximum number of absences for activities, whether sponsored by the school or outside agency/organization, which removes any student from the classroom shall be ten for any one class period of each school year. Excluded from this number are state and national levels of school-sponsored contests. State and national contest are those for which a student must earn the right to compete. The criteria for earning the right to represent the school in any activity or contest must be submitted in writing by local school sponsors and approved by the local board of education."

Furthermore, in a letter to the state superintendents signed by Sandy Garrett and dated May 5, 2008: "In addition, any deviation from the ten days absence rule shall not exceed five days."

This rule comes from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. This rule was enacted in 1986.

The STEM Education division of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education supports the Department of Education in their endeavor of creating and maintaining academic excellence. Therefore, criteria submitted to the local 10 day committee should support an educational extension of career pathways offered through an STEM Education program. Furthermore, the criteria developed to justify exemption to attend an activity should be stringent enough that it supports the educational skills and competencies provided to the student in their classroom environment and through the STEM Education curriculum. The STEM Education staff will continue to monitor and evaluate activities in an attempt to minimize loss of school time. The following criteria are provided by the STEM Education division of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology. The sole purpose of these criteria is to assist public schools with the development of local policy in regard to the "ten-day rule." These criteria are not intended to be all encompassing, but rather foundational criteria for the schools in developing local policies.

CareerTech Activities

The following activities have been approved by the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education for exclusion from the 10 day rule. The activities, and reason for exclusion, are listed by general category and represent the activity of the seven CareerTech Student Organizations, including BPA, DECA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, SkillsUSA, and TSA. Also listed are activities involving the Career and Academic Connections Division.

- **District, State and National Leadership Activities**
 - Excluded based on earning the right to participate above the County level
 - Examples
 - Officer Leadership Training
 - District Leadership Conferences
 - State Leadership Conferences
 - National Leadership Conferences
 - CareerTech Student Organization Day at the Capitol
- **Career Development Events**
 - Excluded based on the natural progression of competition above the County level
 - Examples
 - Speech Contests
 - Judging Contest
 - Skills competitions
- **Project Exhibition**
 - Excluded based on earning the right to compete above the County level.
 - Examples
 - Livestock
 - Crops
 - Technology Exhibits/ Displays
- **Career Guidance Events**
 - Excluded based on the students need to develop essential career and academic skills
 - Examples
 - College and Career Days
 - Career Fairs
 - Career /Academic preparation, assessment, interpretations
 - Career Expos, Tech Tours
 - Job shadowing