



Executive Summary of Feedback Received from the Policy Portal to the Student Attendance Policy

January 21, 2026

Comments received during the Student Attendance Policy 30-day review and comment period, (December 10, 2025 to January 9, 2026) are addressed below.

Comment #1

(Submitted by an anonymous faculty member): “We need to go back to withdrawing students who are missing too many classes. Our current system is not working. Many students have excessive absences, and their grades are noticeably declining. We changed to a universal withdrawal policy based on email notifications to the students who missed 10% or 20% of classes, but then MCC never followed through with withdrawing the students who missed 30% of classes. We need to show the students the importance of attending classes by enforcing a withdrawal policy.”

Administrative response: The faculty-initiated withdrawal process was discontinued due to equity concerns. While the administration shares concerns about students receiving failing grades, a blanket faculty-initiated withdrawal policy has the potential to disproportionately harm vulnerable student populations and is therefore not an approach we will reinstate.

The previously proposed universal withdrawal model was not fully implemented due to software limitations. As a result, the revised procedure removes the universal withdrawal framework entirely. The revised policy and procedure instead emphasize clear communication, academic standards, and student responsibility, while allowing faculty to manage attendance expectations within their courses.

Comment #2

Part 1

(Submitted by an anonymous faculty member): REGARDING 3.3 Student Attendance Policy (which is the document the PDF link took me to)

Page 1 - "Additional considerations for attendance are summarized below", but then everything below is crossed out. Consider rephrasing to "Additional considerations for attendance are clarified throughout the document"?

Administrative response: [Note that all comments for this section, except the last one, are in reference to the Procedure document, not the Policy as indicated.] Thank you for this comment. The suggested change will be made.

Part 2

Page 2 - "The following outline the steps for students and faculty to manage absences due to curricular, co-curricular, and extenuating non-academic reasons. These guidelines aim to support students in fulfilling academic requirements while participating in college-sanctioned activities or handling unforeseen personal circumstances." Current phrasing does not reflect the nature of college-level study accurately. Consider rephrasing to "The following outline the steps for students and faculty to manage absences due to curricular, co-curricular, and extenuating non-academic reasons. These guidelines aim to support students in maintaining academic integrity while balancing course requirements and college-sanctioned activities or handling unforeseen personal circumstances."

Administrative response: Thank you for this comment. The language will be revised as follows: "The following outlines the steps for students and faculty to manage absences due to curricular, co-curricular, and extenuating non-academic reasons. These guidelines aim to support students in maintaining academic integrity while balancing course requirements and college-sanctioned activities or handling unforeseen personal circumstances."

Part 3

Page 2 - "Co-curricular absences relate to activities the student may be involved in outside the classroom and include school team sports, writing competitions, participation with the school newspaper or governance functioning, and student clubs." could be more precisely phrased as "Co-curricular absences relate to activities the student may be involved in outside the classroom and include, but are not limited to, school team sports, writing competitions, participation with the school newspaper or governance functioning, and/or student clubs. "

Administrative Response: Thank you for this comment. The suggested change will be made.

Part 4

Page 2 - section regarding other extenuating circumstances articulates students' rights well and appropriately encourages faculty regarding accommodations. However, there isn't any explicit statement indicating that faculty will be supported in their decisions as regarding those possible accommodations. That needs to be addressed.

Administrative response: The focus of the policy and procedure is on outlining expectations and processes related to student attendance and potential accommodations. Faculty support and academic discretion are addressed through existing MCC policies, including Policy 1.1 on Academic Freedom. For this reason, no additional language has been added to this section.

Part 3

Page 3 - "Absences due to Disability: The following outlines the steps for students and faculty. Students are encouraged to engage proactively with the Office of Disability Services and faculty to implement accommodations effectively." Current phrasing does not sufficiently stress the need for students to coordinate with the ODS office. Consider rephrasing to "Absences due to Disability: The following outlines the steps for students and faculty . . . Students need to engage proactively with the Office of Disability Services and faculty to implement accommodations effectively."

Administrative Response: Thank you for this comment. The suggested change will be made.

Part 4

Page 3 - "Course Requirements and Alternate Options: In cases where attendance is essential to the course, alternate options, such as withdrawal or an incomplete, may be considered if absences become excessive. The Office of Disability Services can provide examples of alternate assignments or participation methods to support students in completing essential course elements." Current phrasing does not clarify how/who determines if it is "essential to the course." Consider adding phrasing at the end to "While the Office of Disability Services can provide examples of alternate assignments or participation methods to support students in completing essential course elements, course professors are the subject matter experts who determine if the academic integrity of required skills would be adversely affected. All effort will be made to work in collaboration to decide the student's best path forward to ensure academic success."

Administrative response: The current language is intentionally broad to support collaboration among students, faculty, and the Office of Disability Services while preserving faculty discretion over academic standards. No change has been made at this time.

Part 5

Page 4 - Absences related to Pregnancy or Related Conditions

"Faculty Responsibilities: Reinstate students to their academic status as it was before their leave" This is unclear. "Reinstate" implies removal from something. What are faculty "reinstating"? There is no "status" to remove beyond grades which cannot be affected based on previous clarifications.

Administrative response: The language in this section is intentionally aligned with federal Title IX guidance regarding pregnancy and related conditions. The term "*reinstate*" reflects the requirement that students returning from pregnancy-related absences resume their prior academic and extracurricular status without penalty, including restoration of any attendance-related standing, opportunities, or benefits that may have been impacted by a medically necessary absence.

Because this language is drawn directly from federal guidance and is intended to ensure institutional compliance with Title IX, no changes have been made.

Part 6

Page 5 - Absences due to Military Service

"Faculty are encouraged to make reasonable accommodations" should be rephrased to "Faculty need to make reasonable accommodations." Students' federally mandated service requirements are not something they can negotiate and need full support.

Administrative response: While MCC strongly supports students who are active members of the military, this policy uses consistent language across absence categories to encourage reasonable accommodations rather than mandate specific instructional actions. The current wording will remain unchanged.

Part 7

Page 6 - Absence due to Religious Observance

"Resolution of Accommodation Concerns: If a student believes they have not received reasonable accommodations in line with Section 224-A of the New York State Education Law or this procedure, they should first attempt to resolve the matter informally with the instructor. The word "informally" is unnecessary and could lead to misunderstanding regarding the need for clear communication. Removing it would be appropriate.

Administrative Response: Thank you for this comment. The suggested change will be made.

Part 8

Page 6 - nothing follows "MCC Attendance Taking Protocol." Would it improve clarity to state, "Refer to 3.3P Student Attendance Procedure"?

REGARDING 3.3P Student Attendance Procedure

Unfortunately, on the 3.3P Student Attendance Procedure document, no procedure is actually clarified. The "Attendance Taking Protocol" mentioned does not appear.

Administrative Response for both comments regarding the Protocol: Reference to the Protocol was removed from both the policy and procedure.

Comment #3

(submitted by the Grant Administrators): Just excited to see these updates coming through. This update will benefit both the student and faculty!

Administrative response: Thank you for the feedback. We are likewise excited and believe the revisions will provide greater clarity and consistency for both students and faculty.

Comment #4

Collected via email

Please add the following to the Maintenance and Reporting of Student Attendance Records section of the policy:

Non-attendance does not automatically relieve a student of their financial obligation. Any student who does not officially withdraw prior to the semester start date may be liable for tuition and fees. A student dropping or withdrawing from class(es) after the semester start date shall be responsible for payment of tuition and fees in accordance with SUNY's Tuition & Fee Refund Schedule.

Administrative response: Thank you for the feedback. We have added this to the policy.

Comment #5

Collected via email

Please add the following to the Absences due to Military Service section of the policy:

In accordance with SUNY's Refund of Tuition and Fees exceptions, for students who enter military service or military personnel who have a change in assignment beyond their control and who provide proper certification of such change from a base education service officer or other appropriate military official shall incur no tuition or refundable fee liability.

Administrative response: Thank you for the feedback. We have added this to the policy.