

# Should Students be able to Leave the Classroom Freely?

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Many teachers and students have different opinions on whether or not students should be able to go to the bathroom in the middle of a class period. Teachers have different rules and methods on what they do if a student asks if they can go to the restroom. Some are using an outrageous bathroom pass or only have a few bathroom breaks per semester. Many students understand the logic behind teachers being hesitant toward bathroom breaks because some students aren't trustworthy and will take advantage of a teacher who lets them go whenever; however, some also believe that teachers are too strict when it comes to allowing these breaks, and that students should be able to leave the classroom whenever they feel like it.

The student handbook language about bathroom breaks states that we need to make sure we keep the bathrooms clean and be safe. Also no foul language and use your time wisely and be in class when it's time. Other than that, it doesn't say anything else about whether or not students can leave to go to the restroom during class. This means that bathroom passes are given to students depending on the teacher's perspective, and that students don't have authority to leave whenever they need to go.

A student at Perry High School is a diabetic, and a symptom of diabetes when your blood sugar is high is frequent bathroom breaks. She explained that some teachers have said no to her needing to leave class to go to the bathroom more than once in a class period. "I understand that some students abuse the rules, but I believe I should be an exception." She was explaining that she understands that some teachers just don't understand her disease even though her parents

have spoken to the school on many occasions. The school has to be mindful of students' conditions even though they don't understand.

Mrs. Bezzeg, a teacher at Perry High School, explains her philosophy on the issue, “as a teacher we can set our policies but also follow the administration's rules as well, and the administration is leaning more towards letting students leave when they need.” Her rules about taking breaks during class time are also based on behavior and a student's history of taking breaks in her class. She explains that trust is a very important factor in letting a student leave her class, “There have been times when I know that students are going to be walking around and not in the bathroom, I will ask them to finish their work or whatever they are doing before they leave the classroom.” When asked whether or not a student should be able to take breaks whenever they feel Bezzeg said, “Yes I do believe students should be able to freely take breaks when needed, but I do ask that students either sign out or let me know before they leave.” Overall Bezzeg believes that, “High School students are old enough to take responsibility and know what they are missing in class.”

We now know that the administration has influence over the rules of leaving the classroom, and that they are leaning towards the idea of students being able to freely leave whenever is needed. This may raise some controversy over the issue, but more and more teachers in the high school are adapting to this policy.