

**Attendance
Board of Education
Wrightstown Community School District**

The Wrightstown Community School District recognizes that the District's educational program is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. State law requires the Board of Education to enforce the regular attendance of students. The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom and their participation in a well-planned instructional activity under the tutelage of a competent teacher is vital to student success.

All children six (6) through eighteen (18) years of age shall attend school regularly during the full period and hours, religious holidays excepted, that the school in which the child is enrolled is in session until the end of the term, quarter, or semester of the school year in which the child becomes eighteen (18) years of age, unless they fall under an exception under State law, this policy, or administrative guideline issued under this policy. A child who is enrolled in five (5) year-old kindergarten shall attend school regularly, religious holidays excepted, during the full period and hours that kindergarten is in session until the end of the school term.

Written Excuse Required

The District shall require, from the parent or guardian of each student or from an adult student, who has been absent for any reason a written, signed, dated statement stating the reason for the absence and the time period covered by the absence or advanced notification of a student absence by the parent or guardian via email or phone.

School Attendance Officer

The District Administrator shall designate the principal at each school to be the School Attendance Officer.

Excused Absences

As required under State law, a student shall be excused from school for the following reasons:

A. Physical or Mental Condition

The student is temporarily not in proper physical or mental condition to attend a school program.

B. Obtaining Religious Instruction

To enable the student to obtain religious instruction outside the school during the required school period.

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C. Permission of Parent or Guardian

The student has been excused by his/her parent or guardian before the absence for any or no reason. A student may not be excused for more than ten (10) days per school year under this paragraph and must complete any course work missed during the absence. Examples of reasons for being absent that should be counted under this paragraph include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. professional and other necessary appointments (e.g., medical, dental, and legal) that cannot be scheduled outside of the school day
2. to attend the funeral of a relative
3. legal proceedings that require the student's presence
4. college visits
5. job fairs
6. vacations

D. Religious Holiday

For observance of a religious holiday consistent with the student's creed or belief.

E. Suspension or Expulsion

The student has been suspended or expelled.

F. Program or Curriculum Modification

The Board has excused the student from regular school attendance to participate in a program or curriculum modification leading to high school graduation or a high school equivalency diploma as provided by State law.

G. High School Equivalency – Secured Facilities

The Board has excused a student from regular school attendance to participate in a program leading to a high school equivalency diploma in a secured correctional facility, a secured child caring institution, a secure detention facility, or a juvenile portion of a county jail, and the student and his/her parent or guardian agree that the student will continue to participate in such a program.

H. Child at Risk

The student is a "child at risk" as defined under State law and is participating in a program at a technical college on either a part-time or full-time basis leading to high school graduation, as provided under State law. A student **may** be excused from school, as determined by the School Attendance Officer, or his/her designee, for the following reasons:

A. Quarantine

Quarantine of the student's home by a public health officer.

B. Illness of an Immediate Family Member

The illness of an immediate family member.

C. Emergency

An emergency that requires the student to be absent because of familial responsibilities or other appropriate reasons.

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Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences demonstrate a deliberate disregard for the educational program and are considered a serious matter. The District Administrator shall develop administrative guidelines to address unexcused absences.

Late Arrival and Early Dismissal

It is necessary that a student be in attendance throughout the school day in order to benefit fully from the educational program of the District.

The Board of Education recognizes, however, that from time-to-time compelling circumstances require that a student be late to school or dismissed before the end of the school day.

As agents responsible for the education of the children of this District, the Board shall require that the school be notified in advance of such absences by written or personal request of the student's parent, which shall state the reason for the tardiness or early dismissal. Justifiable reasons shall be determined by the principal.

No student who has a medical disability which may be incapacitating may be released without a person to accompany him/her. No student shall be released to anyone who is not authorized such custody by the parents.

A student will be considered a habitual truant if s/he is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five (5) or more days on which school is held during a school semester.

Notice of Truancy

The School Attendance Officer shall notify a truant student's parent or guardian of the student's truancy and direct the parent or guardian to return the student to school no later than the next day on which school is in session or to provide an excuse for the absence.

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Notice of Habitual Truancy

When a student initially becomes a habitual truant, the School Attendance Officer shall provide a notice to the student's parent or guardian, by registered or certified mail, or by 1st class mail, which contains the following:

- A. a statement of the parent's or guardian's responsibility under State law to cause the student to attend school regularly
- B. a statement that the parent, guardian, or student may request program or curriculum modifications for the student under State law and that the student may be eligible for enrollment in a program for children at risk
- C. a request that the parent or guardian meet with the appropriate school personnel to discuss the student's truancy

The notice shall include the name of the school personnel with whom the parent or guardian should meet, a date, time, and place for the meeting and the name, address, and telephone number of a person to contact to arrange a different date, time, or place. The date for the meeting shall be within five (5) school days after the date that the notice is sent, except that with the consent of the student's parent or guardian the date for the meeting may be extended for an additional five (5) school days.

- D. a statement of the penalties, under State law or local ordinances that may be imposed on the parent or guardian if s/he fails to cause the child to attend school regularly as required by State law. The School Attendance Officer will also continue to notify the parent or guardian of a habitual truant's subsequent unexcused absences.

Referral to the District Attorney

Truancy cases will be referred to the District Attorney. Prior to referral, the School Attendance Officer will ensure that appropriate school personnel have done the following before a case is referred to the District Attorney:

- A. met with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's truancy or attempted to meet with the student's parent or guardian and received no response or were refused
- B. provided an opportunity for educational counseling to the student to determine whether a change in the student's curriculum would resolve the student's truancy and have curriculum modifications under State law
- C. evaluated the student to determine whether learning problems may be a cause of the student's truancy and, if so, have taken steps to overcome the learning problems, except that the student need not be evaluated if tests administered to the student within the previous year indicate that the student is performing at his/her grade level

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- D. conducted an evaluation to determine whether social problems may be a cause of the student's truancy and, if so, have taken appropriate action or made appropriate referrals.

Make-Up Course Work and Examinations

Students who are absent from school, whether the absence was excused or unexcused, will be permitted to make-up course work and examinations missed during the absence when they return to school. It is the student's responsibility to contact his/her teachers to determine what course work and examinations must be made-up. Teachers have the discretion to assign substitute course work and examinations. The time for completing the work shall be commensurate with the length of the absence.

References: Wisconsin State Statutes 115, 118.15, 118.125(2), 118.153, 118.16, 118.162

Adopted: 1/15/2018

Reviewed:

Revised: