

# **WRHS Student Attendance Policy**

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

### **STUDENTS COVERED BY ARKANSAS COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS**

ACT 1230 of 1997 and ACA 6-18-201 and ACA 6-18-207 as amended by ACT 1230 of 1997 require that beginning with the 1998-99 school year every parent, guardian, or other person residing within the State of Arkansas having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1, of that year shall enroll and send the child to a public, private, or parochial school, or provide a home school for the child.

### **STUDENTS NOT COVERED BY COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

Any student who has attained the age of 18 is no longer subject to the Compulsory Attendance Law. However, all students attending Walnut Ridge High School must comply with the attendance policy set by the school district. A student has a legal right to attend school inclusively through twenty-one (21) years of age or until he/she graduates.

Students who drop out of school will be reported to the prosecuting attorney's office and State Revenue Office.

### **LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTENDANCE POLICY**

In an effort to be in accordance with Act 1322 of the 2013 Legislative Special Session, the Lawrence County School Board has approved the following concerning school attendance:

A maximum of seven (7) unexcused days per semester may be missed in each class before credit is denied.

Three (3) absences per semester will be excused with a note from the student's parent or guardian indicating the parent or guardian was aware of the student's absence. The signed note

must be brought to school the following day and must include a phone number so the parent or guardian can be contacted for verification.

Subsequent absences will be unexcused unless one of the following reasons is properly documented as indicated:

- Personal illness or medical appointments: doctor's note
- Death or serious illness of a family member: parent or guardian phone call to principal
- Court appearance: note from court official

Parents will be notified by mail from the principal's office when the student reaches four (4) absences and again at six (6) absences per semester in any given class or classes.

The student's parent or guardian will be allowed to petition the school or district administration for additional absences. The petition must be made before the student accumulates the maximum number of 7 absences allowed under the policy. When a student has been absent for a total of 7 days, the principal will contact the parent to determine whether a referral should be made to the legal authorities.

Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the principal and an alternate assignment may be made by the principal to a student for the class in which he/she may lose credit.

Act 1223 of 2011 does not prohibit students from missing school for medical or dental treatment. If a student's treatment will require excessive absences, the student may petition for additional absences or may request a 504 plan. Exceptions will be made as necessary to satisfy Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plans.

Make-up work should be initiated by the student upon return to class. Failure to do so will result in the student not being allowed to make up work. One day will be allowed for each day absent. Example: If a student has been absent for two days, he/she will be given two days to make up work after returning to school unless other arrangements have been made.

A student will be counted absent from a class if he/she is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for that class.

Parents are encouraged to check their child's attendance regularly through the Home Access Center (HAC). A Link to HAC can be found on the school web page on the parent page. A user name and password to HAC will be provided at the beginning of each school year.

Seniors will be excused for two college visits. College days must be preapproved by the principal and documentation of the visit must be returned to the office in order for the absence to be excused.

Seniors will be given the option of a one class period release at either the first or last class of the day. Releases must be approved by the principal and not affect the students eligibility to graduate on time.

## **ABSENCES FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

A student may be excused a maximum of 10 days per semester for school-sponsored activities. Absences for school-sponsored events are not recorded as an absence from school, and the student has the right to complete all assignments made during his/her absences. These assignments or equivalent assignments must be completed within a reasonable time period as determined by the instructor of any class missed.

Absences for school activities in excess of ten (10) shall be considered regular absences from school. Exceptions or extensions may be granted by the principal for school-sanctioned competitive events if the student meets the following criteria:

- The student meets all eligibility requirements for the event.
- The student has not accumulated three (3) unexcused absences, been truant, or suspended for disciplinary reasons.
- The student is maintaining a “C” average in all classes and is making satisfactory progress as indicated by grades and/or standardized test scores.

No student may participate in any school activity (athletics, concerts, plays, etc.) or practice for such an event on a day when the student was absent for more than one-half day (4 periods). There may be extenuating circumstances for more than one-half day. This absence will be evaluated by the principal before the student can be declared an eligible to attend or participant in the school activity.

# WRES Student Attendance Policy

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

In accordance with Act 104 of 1983 and Act 1322 of 2013 Legislative Special Session, the Lawrence County School Board has approved the following concerning school attendance.

Three absences per semester will be excused with a note from the student's parent or guardian indicating the parent or guardian was aware of the student's absence. The note must be signed and include a phone number so that the parent or guardian can be contacted for verification. Subsequent absences will be unexcused unless one of the following reasons is properly documented as indicated:

- Personal illness or medical appointments: doctor's note
  - Death or serious illness of a family member: parent or guardian phone call to principal
  - Court appearance: note from court official
1. The student, upon return to class, should initiate make-up work. One day will be allowed for each day absent.
  2. Students shall not be absent more than ten days in a semester. The parent(s) will be contacted by letter when a student has been absent 5 days and again after a total of 9 days. The student's parent or guardian will be allowed to petition the school or district administration for additional absences. The petition **must be made before** the student accumulates the maximum number of 10 absences allowed under the policy. When a student has been absent for a total of 10 days, the principal will contact the parent to determine whether a referral should be made to the legal authorities.
  3. A student arriving at school after an absence during part of the school day must be checked in through the office. Even when a parent has checked out a student, a note will still be needed upon the student's return to school in order to keep a record of student attendance.
  4. Students will only be permitted to leave with someone authorized by the custodial parent. In a case where students have a custodial and a non-custodial parent, the student will not be permitted to leave with the non-custodial parent without the express permission of the custodial parent.
  5. Tardies: 8:00-9:00 A.M.; 2:00-3:00 P.M. Tardiness to school in the morning is disruptive to the learning process. When excessive tardiness is a problem, a conference will be scheduled with the parent and student to develop a plan to alleviate the problem.

Act 1223 of 2011 does not prohibit students from missing school for medical or dental treatment. If a student's treatment will require excessive absences, the student may petition for additional absences or may request a 504 plan. Exceptions will be made as necessary to satisfy Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 plans.