

Attendance Policy And Laws

- Students can miss up to ten days of lawful absences. All days past ten must be approved by the principal.
- Any student with more than ten absences may be retained.
- High School students who exceed five absences in a semester course or ten absences in a year long course may not receive credit for that course. However students may be eligible to pay to make up missed days, not to exceed four make up days.
- After an absence, medical or parent notes must be submitted to school within five days.
- If notes are submitted after five days, the absences may be considered as unlawful.

Lawful Absences:

- Student illness if attendance would endanger his health or the health of others.
(If your child has an illness that causes an absence to be more than five days, you may make a request for homebound instruction. You must have the proper form submitted from a medical practitioner)
- Illness or death in the immediate family.
- A recognized religious holiday of the students' faith.
- Medical or dental appointments; court appearances.
- Class suspensions.

Unlawful Absences:

- An unlawful absence is any absence that is not excused under the conditions mentioned above.

Consequences:

- Three consecutive or five total unlawful absences are considered to be truancy.
- Parent/ legal guardian will be notified that an *Attendance Improvement Plan* must be implemented.
- If unlawful absences continue, a referral may be made to the Richland County Family Court.
- Parents convicted for educational neglect may be placed under court order, fined up to \$ 50.00 a day and /or jailed for up to thirty days for each unexcused absence thereafter.
- Students between the ages of twelve and seventeen may be sent to the Department of Juvenile Justice for up to ninety days.
- A court order may remain in effect until a child graduates from high school.