

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Missing school 1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but....

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of school that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Being 10 minutes late....

He/she is only missing....	That equals...	Which is....	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

DID YOU KNOW?

Middle & High School Students

Strive for 95!

- Students should have **no more than 9 total absences** each year to stay engaged, successful, and on track to graduate.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate and maintain employment.

What is Chronic Absenteeism?

- **Chronic Absenteeism** -missing 10% (18 total absences) of the school year can make it harder for your child to graduate. This includes excused absences.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss two days per month.
- By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school. By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.

What is Truancy?

- A student with 10+ **unexcused** absences is considered truant.
- Truancy can result in **legal charges** against the juvenile.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Middle & High School Students

- Avoid scheduling dental and medical appointments during the school day. If unavoidable, return your child to school following the appointment.
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday; make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as eating a healthy diet, completing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Set alarms to wake up on time.
- Use our Calendar & Attendance Tracker Magnet to keep track of absences.
- Keep shot records up to date.
- Keep your contact information current.

WE UNDERSTAND

Occasionally, your child may not be sick enough to visit a doctor. Did you know, parents/guardians can use up to 10 parent notes per year to excuse absences?

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

Marshall County Schools

Educating Kids - Building Communities

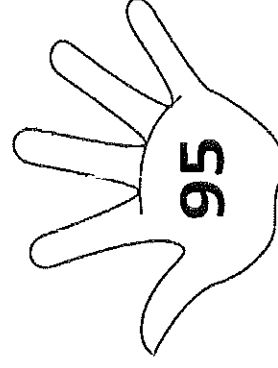


ATTENDANCE MATTERS
every student, every day

A Guide to Prevent Chronic Absenteeism & Truancy

Strive for 95!

*Missing 9 or less days means
you attend 95% of the time!*



DID YOU KNOW?

Elementary School Students

Strive for 95!

- Students should have **no more than 9 total absences** each year to stay engaged, successful, and on track to graduate.
- **What is Chronic Absenteeism?**
- **Chronic Absenteeism** -missing 10% (18 total absences) of the school year can make it harder for your child to learn to read. This includes excused absences.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Being late to school often can lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardies can affect the whole class if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- A student with 10+ **unexcused** absences is considered truant.
- Truancy can result in **legal charges** against the guardian.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in Kindergarten so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Elementary School Students

- Avoid scheduling dental and medical appointments during the school day. If unavoidable, return your child to school following the appointment.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Set alarms to wake up on time.
- Use our Calendar & Attendance Tracker Magnet to keep track of absences.
- Keep shot records up to date.
- Keep your contact information current.

WE UNDERSTAND

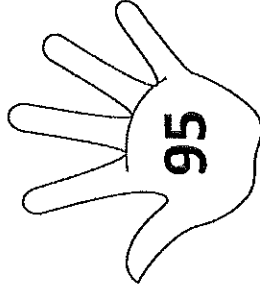
Occasionally, your child may not be sick enough to visit a doctor. Did you know, parents/guardians can use up to 10 parent notes per year to excuse absences?

- **BIG SICK or little sick?** Fever over 100 F, vomiting, and diarrhea are signs of BIG SICK. Complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be signs of mild anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make them feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.

To view Attendance Policy 5200, visit www.boe.mars.k12.wv.us

Truancy Diversion & Intervention

- 1) Parent/Guardian contacted by School Attendance Team at 3 unexcused days.
- 2) Written notice at 5+ unexcused absences.
- 3) Meeting with the Attendance Director.
- 4) Home visits and referrals to community services and supports as needed - including community in schools, counselors and/or social worker.
- 5) Referral to Attendance Director. A student with 10+ unexcused absences is considered truant. **Truancy could result in legal charges against the guardian or the juvenile.**



Contact Us

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West Virginia
EDUCATION

