

DID YOU KNOW?

You miss school, you miss out!

- 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 the 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?

- 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 every day; 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 the calendar magnet and Attendance Tracker in your student's agenda 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 write 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, clubs, and our Afterschool Program.

To view Attendance Policy 5200, visit [Attendance - West Virginia Department of Education \(wvde.us\)](http://www.wvde.us)

TRUANCY DIVERSION & INTERVENTION

1. Parent/Guardian contacted by school at 3 and 5 **unexcused** absences.
2. Written notice at 10+ **unexcused** absences.
3. Conference with Principal and Truancy Diversion Specialist for 10+ **unexcused** absences.
4. Home visits and referrals to community services and supports as needed.
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

Jared Fitzwater, Attendance Director

Jerry Linkinogor, Truancy Diversion

304.587.4266

www.claycountyschools.org