

## 4.7—ABSENCES

If any student’s Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student’s IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students’ regular attendance at school, whether in person or digitally, is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

### **Excused/Unexcused Absences**

A total of three (3) parent notes per semester will be allowed to excuse an absence. After this, a note from a physician will be required for the absence to be excused. All documentation used to excuse an absence must be presented within 5 days of the absence. A total of eight (8) unexcused absences per semester (LHS/LMS only: per period) will be allowed. Attendance letters will be mailed to parents after three (3), five (5), and eight (8) absences are accrued. Upon the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) absence, a truancy petition will be filed with the prosecuting attorney, and students may lose credit for the course.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly’s intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, legal guardian, person with lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis may petition the school or district’s administration for special arrangements to address the student’s unexcused absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement’s requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student’s parent; legal guardian; person having lawful control of the student; or person standing in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.

Students who attend in-school suspension shall not be counted absent for those days.

Days missed due to out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be unexcused absences.

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student’s operator’s license unless he/she meets certain requirements specified in the statute.

Cross References:     4.8—MAKE-UP WORK  
                              4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS  
                              5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES

Legal References:     A.C.A. § 6-4-302  
                              A.C.A. § 6-18-107  
                              A.C.A. § 6-18-209  
                              A.C.A. § 6-18-220  
                              A.C.A. § 6-18-222

A.C.A. § 6-18-229

A.C.A. § 6-18-231

A.C.A. § 6-18-507(g)

A.C.A. § 6-18-702

A.C.A. § 7-4-116

A.C.A. § 9-28-113(f)

A.C.A. § 27-16-701

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Distance and Digital Learning

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