

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ATHENS**

### **TRUANCY**

#431 Rule

Adopted: 5/12/99

Revised: 10/8/03

Revised: 6/15/15

It is the belief of the Athens Board of Education that regular attendance at school is an essential and basic ingredient in order for students to attain success during their school career.

When students are absent from class, they miss integral and essential parts of the learning process. Certain classroom activities, such as discussions, films, and the participation of guest speakers can never be made up. It is the student's responsibility to participate and contribute in the classroom learning process. Excessive absences and truancies have a detrimental effect on other students as well as on the process of instruction. Absences and truancies do harm to the process of education by placing greater demands on the time of teachers for makeup assignments and assistance to truant or absent students. This demand is an infringement upon the rights of other students for the equal attention of the teacher.

Beginning at the elementary school level, school attendance when supported and encouraged by parents/guardians constitutes is a vital part of the child's development of a positive attitude towards school and to their ultimate success. Conversely, when parents/guardians are not supported of regular school attendance, the child begins to view school as not being important as well as missing the instructional time mentioned above. Both of these elements significantly increase the risk of an unsuccessful school experience and directly relate to a student not graduating or dropping out.

The School District of Athens will work cooperatively with the parent/guardian or responsible adult to teach students the importance of daily and timely school and class attendance. However, the primary legal and moral responsibility for student attendance rests with the parent/guardian and the student. Good instruction is an important part of this process and it is the position of the Board that the climate for good instruction begins on the student's part with regular attendance.

#### Attendance Office/Officer

1. The school principal shall be designated by the school board as the formal attendance officer for each school in the district.
2. The school attendance officer shall record and keep records of excused and unexcused absences.

#### Unexcused Absence - notification to parents of truancy

The school attendance officer shall expect as provided under Wisconsin Statutes §118.16(2) (cq) and (cr) notify the parent or guardian of a child who has an unexcused absence or has been truant of the child's unexcused absence or truancy and direct the parent or guardian to return the child to school no later than the next day on which school is in session or to provide an excuse under §118.15. The notice under this paragraph shall be given before the end of the second school day after receiving a report of an unexcused absence. The notice may be made by personal contact, mail, or telephone call of which a written record is kept except that notice by personal contact or telephone call shall be attempted before notice by mail may be given.

"Habitual Truant" is defined as a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five (5) or more days on which school is held during a school semester. Students who are habitually truant as defined above under Wisconsin Statute 118.16(1) will be subject to the procedures identified in the Marathon County Truancy Ordinance.

Procedure for Excused Absences

All excuses must be written or called in by the parent/guardian or by the student if 18 years of age. They excuse should indicate the date(s) and reason for the absence and be submitted in a timely manner prior to or following the absence. Students with an excused absence shall have an opportunity to make up schoolwork that was missed. A student with an unexcused absence shall not receive credit for class work missed during the absence but will be allowed to make up major unit, quarter, or semester examinations or evaluation tools. Excessive absenteeism may require an excuse from a health care provider.

Truancy consequences are outlined in the student handbook. The District shall follow the procedures of the Marathon County Truancy Court as per Marathon County Ordinance for habitual truant students.

LEGAL REFERENCE:	Sections	Wisconsin Statutes
		§118.15
		§118.153
		§118.16
		§118.162
		§118.165

Marathon County Ordinance Section 9.06 #0-25-98 Truancy Court