

Attendance Policy

It is the belief of the Piggott School District Board of Education that consistent attendance at school is vitally important for the success of our students. Something of value is presented during every class period. Attendance has an independent academic value that cannot be measured by exams or other evaluations. Any time a student misses a class, valuable learning opportunities are lost that cannot be completely regained through make-up work. Consistent attendance by all students has a profound positive effect on district resources, which in turn affects the quality of instruction and student achievement throughout the district. These beliefs provide the rationale for the following attendance policy:

1. Consistent attendance is necessary in order to earn credit. Students who have more than six unexcused absences in a class during a semester will not earn credit for the course.
2. After six unexcused absences, the Juvenile office will be contacted and a Family In Need of Services (FINS) petition will be filed.
3. Parents/guardians are asked to contact the high school office/nurse when a student is absent.
4. Students should provide documentation from doctors, orthodontists, or other professionals immediately upon returning to school. Notes will not be accepted after the second day.
5. The office will attempt to contact parents when their child reaches three unexcused absences in any class. If necessary, a conference will be scheduled when a student reaches six unexcused absences.
6. Summer school may be used to make up excessive absences and regain up to 3.5 unearned credits. However, students who miss more than 20% (18 days) of classes during a semester are limited to having two unearned credits restored by attending summer school and those who miss over 30% (25 days) of a semester cannot restore credits by attending summer school.
7. Students who miss more than 15 minutes of a class will be considered absent.
8. Students who miss school will be allowed as many days to make up work as were missed.
 - a. It is the student's responsibility to request make-up work.
 - b. Alternative assignments may be provided as make-up work and the work may be more rigorous to account for the loss of intangible academic value due to the absence.
 - c. Students who have been suspended from school will have the opportunity to make up for missed work.
9. Days missed due to suspension will count as absences. These absences will not cause a student to lose credit.
10. After ten consecutive days of absence without contacting the high school office, students may be dropped from the school roster.
11. Subsequent absences will be unexcused except for one of the following reasons with proper documentation as indicated:

- Personal illness or medical appointments - a doctor's note must be provided. A maximum of 6 days per semester. In extenuating circumstances, please contact the principal.
- Death or serious illness of family member - parent or guardian phone call to principal
- Court appearance - note from court official
- College visits (for seniors) up to two (2) if visit if prior approval has been given by the principal and the absence will not cause a student to exceed the maximum days absent for loss of credit - must bring note from college official verifying visit.

12. Any student absence not covered by the policy will be based on the principal's discretion.

Perfect attendance is defined as a student must not have been absent from school even one class period. Attending school functions such as Beta, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, Student Council, PACE, athletic events, or band and choir events are not considered to be absences from school.