

Why do we consider attendance *intervention* important in Buncombe County Schools?

BCS believes that it is important to implement an academic, behavior, and a social-emotional multi-tiered system of intervention. “Across the country, more than 8 million students are missing so many days of school that they are academically at risk. Chronic absence — *missing 10 percent* or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions, can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing subjects and ninth-graders dropping out of high school <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/the-problem/>.

In light of this, BCS has implemented the following attendance policy to intervene for chronic absences.

Recommendations:

3 days excused or unexcused absences from school (K-8) or class (9-12): When a student has been absent for 3 total days (both excused and unexcused) AND is failing the course, a contact is made with the parent(s), or guardian with a phone call, email, and/or text. It is recommended that the teacher of the student make the contact as we recognize the importance of developing a relationship with individual students to promote learning. At middle school where students are grouped by teams, only one teacher makes the contact for the team.

6 days excused or unexcused absences from school(K-8) or class(9-12): When a student has been absent for 6 days in a class, regardless of whether or not they are passing, the teacher alerts the counselor and they jointly decide who will contact parents/guardian. Depending upon information known about the student, there may be a need for a referral to the school nurse or social worker. If the student is under 16 years old, the school social worker should make a contact in place of the counselor. This is a collaborative step with teacher initiating the conversation with the counselor, then counselor would include other relevant personnel, ie. social worker (required if under 16), the district graduation specialist (high school), etc.

10 days excused or unexcused absences from school (K-8) or (9-12): Upon 10 days of absence, regardless of whether or not a student is passing the course Student Services staff should conduct a meeting with the parent to develop an Attendance Intervention Plan. Plans should address academic interventions, behavioral interventions, and any necessary supportive services using either [Individual Student Problem Solving Documentation 2021](#) or the [Buncombe County Attendance Contract](#). Student Services staff will conduct a meeting with the parent and relevant school and community agency personnel to develop an intervention plan. The plan may address the requirement for doctor’s notes for future absences.

14 days excused or unexcused absences from school: Upon 18 days of absence, if the student is passing the class or grade, an appeal can be made by the student, parent, teacher, or Student Services staff to the Principal (K-8) or a Credit Review Committee (appointed by the Principal in

9-12) to receive credit for the class or grade based on documentation presented concerning attendance issues. The Credit Review Committee and/or Principal will choose **one of the following options:**

In K-8

- a. Principals and the attendance team may require attendance makeup at their discretion.
- b. Principals and the attendance team may establish additional criteria for students to be considered for promotion.

In 9-12

- a. The appropriate school designated team may grant credit for the class or waive days over 7. This may require excuse notes, academic data or other family/social circumstances.
- b. If students do not attend the required make-up sessions, award no credit for class and the student receives an FF and is required to make up any days required for awarding credit.
- c. FFs will remain on a student's transcript until the second semester of their senior year. If not resolved by then, they are recorded as an F for the class. Students are strongly recommended clear FFs at the end of each academic year.