

### **Compulsory Attendance (4.3)**

Every parent, guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions.

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school;
2. The child is being homeschooled and the conditions of policy (4.6—HOMESCHOOLING) have been met;
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office;
4. The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education;
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education;
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (b).

By the law, the parent/guardian and truancy officials will be notified when a child has accumulated one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the district's allowed absences. This will be after a child has five (5) absences in a semester. Before a child reaches the maximum allowable absences (10), the student and/or parent/guardian may request a conference regarding the student's absenteeism and establish an attendance plan. When a student has missed the total number (10) days in the semester, an attendance committee will meet to accept documentation relating to the absences. The acceptable written documentation includes verification of medical visits, funeral information, court papers, or other emergency documentation approved by the administration. When a student exceeds the maximum allowable absences (10), the White County Truancy Officer will be notified. Additional absences will result in attendance committee action, court action, possible loss of credit for courses, and/or grade promotion and any other consequence that is mandated by law.

### **Attendance Report to Officials**

Arkansas law A.C.A. 27-16-701 requires every applicant for a driver's license or learner's permit under the age of 18 to present proof of enrollment and satisfactory attendance in a public, private, parochial, or home school, or receipt of a high school diploma or the equivalent. Students must also have a C average (2.0) for the previous semester. Exceptions are made for disabled students or those students deemed to be performing at their highest level of capability. In the event that a student (under age eighteen) fails to regularly attend school or withdraws from school and does not transfer to another school, Arkansas law A.C.A. 6-18-222 requires that the Department of Finance and Administration be notified. The student's driver's license may be suspended as a result. The law states that when a student exceeds the number of excessive absences, the school may notify the prosecuting or city attorney and that the student's parents/guardians shall be subject to fine (not to exceed \$500) as imposed by the court. It is the responsibility of the parent/ guardian to see that their school age children are in attendance at school. The parent/ guardian is to notify the school principal's office by phone, note, or in person on the day of the absence, or accompany the student to school following the absence explaining the reason for the absence. 11

As evidence of parental support of our attendance policy, parents/guardians are asked to schedule any necessary (doctor/dentist) appointments after school hours if possible.

**Attendance Committee**

A committee consisting of the principal, counselor, teacher, and a student representative shall be established and will review attendance and create an attendance plan. Excessive absences beyond ten (10) days per semester class may result in loss of credit in that class unless the student provides valid documentation which adequately justifies the absence.