

2023-2024 Wynne Schools Attendance Policies

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 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 enriches the learning environment and promotes a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

Students attending vocational and off campus educational facilities will be held accountable to Wynne School District's attendance policies and/or the off campus facility.

Excused Absences

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement to the principal or designee upon his/her return to school from the parent or legal guardian stating such reason. A written statement presented for an absence having occurred more than five (5) school days prior to its presentation will **not** be accepted.

1. The student's illness or when attendance could jeopardize the health of other students. A maximum of six (6) such days are allowed per semester unless the condition(s) causing such absences is of a chronic or recurring nature, is medically documented, and approved by the principal.
2. Death or serious illness in their immediate family;
3. Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student's faith;
4. Attendance at an appointment with a government agency;
5. Attendance at a medical appointment;
6. Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal will be determined on a case by case basis; or
7. Participation in an organization and/or club sanctioned activity;
8. Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students.
9. Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
10. Absences granted, at the Superintendent's discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and (12).
11. Absences for students excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during a disease outbreak because the student has an immunization waiver or whose immunizations are not up to date.
12. A maximum of three (3) parents notes per semester will be accepted for illnesses.

Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.³

At any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of excused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's excused 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 requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.⁶

Unexcused Absences

Absences not defined above or not having an accompanying note from the parent or legal guardian, presented in the timeline required by this policy, shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with ten (10) unexcused absences in a course in a semester shall not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with person(s) having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

When a student has four (4) unexcused absences, his/her parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be notified. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds ten (10) unexcused absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

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, guardian, or person 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 requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or person 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. Students are required to complete all assignments missed during their suspension. The student will receive credit for their assignments.

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.

Applicants for an instruction permit or for a driver's license by persons less than eighteen (18) years old on October 1 of any year are required to provide proof of a high school diploma or enrollment and regular

attendance in an adult education program or a public, private, or parochial school prior to receiving an instruction permit.

Note that high school students may be denied credit for classes with more than 10 unexcused absences. Campus principals will offer credit appeals to seniors at the end of second semester for the classes that are required for graduation.

Lack of attendance or chronic absence could result in non-participation in extracurricular activities.

Semester Test Exemption

6-8

WJHS Test Exemptions

In an effort to promote good attendance Wynne Junior High School will allow students who are passing their courses and have not missed the required number of days to be considered exempt from taking their semester exams. Requirements for semester test exemption are as follows:

Student has a minimum semester grade of 70% and has no more than 4 unexcused absences, no suspensions out of school or no more than three days of in-school suspension, or no more than five (5) detentions a semester.

Criteria to earn exemption status if a student has not met the absences requirement students may qualify by meeting one of the following:

- Score Blue or Green on either Reading or Math NWEA (MAP) Assessment or
- Meet Growth goal on Reading or Math NWEA (MAP) Assessment or
- Score Ready or Exceeding on two of the four ACT Aspire Literacy, Reading, Math, or Science (Fall only)

9-12

In an effort to promote good attendance Wynne High School will allow students who are passing their courses and have not missed the required number of days to be considered exempt from taking their semester exams. Requirements for semester test exemption are as follows:

Student has a minimum semester grade of 70% and has no more than 4 unexcused absences, no suspensions out of school or no more than three days of in-school suspension, or no more than five (5) detentions a semester.

Criteria to earn exemption status if a student has not met the absences requirement students may qualify by meeting one of the following:

- Score 19 or higher on ACT or
- Score 246 on the Accuplacer or
- Score at least a 3 on two of the three areas on ACT WorkKeys Exam or
- Score Blue or Green on either Reading or Math NWEA (MAP) Assessment or
- Meet Growth goal on Reading or Math NWEA (MAP) Assessment or
- Score Ready or Exceeding on two of the four ACT Aspire Literacy, Reading, Math, or Science (Fall only)
- All seniors must have taken the ASVAB in order to be eligible for exemption in the fall and the WorkKeys in order to be eligible for exemption in the spring.

AP, online, concurrent credit courses, and career education students that have mandatory exams are excluded from this policy.

Students who are considered exempt will be allowed to take their semester test if they choose to do so. In this case, if the test raises the student's grade it will be averaged and accepted. However, if it lowers the student's grade it will not count against that student. Students who are not considered exempt are required to take semester exams and their grade on the test will be averaged into their semester grade.

TARDIES

K-5

- Any student arriving after 8 and before 8:30 will be counted as tardy.
- Any student arriving after 8:30 will be counted as half day absence.
- Any student checked out before 3:00 will be counted as half day absence.
- 2 Tardies is equivalent to one (1) full day absence.

Grades 6-12

Promptness is an important character trait that the junior high and high school staff is encouraged to model and help develop in our school's students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement.

Disciplinary Consequences:

- 1st Offense – Warning;
- 2nd Offense – Lunch detention for one day;
- 3rd Offense – Lunch detention for three days;
- 4th Offense – Saturday School;
- 5th Offense & Beyond – In-school suspension.

Tardies are counted on a per semester basis.

Tardy is defined as any student that is not in his/her assigned classroom when the tardy bell begins to ring. If a student is absent 10 minutes or more of a class period, he/she will be considered absent for that period, anything less than 10 minutes will be considered tardy.

Primary/Intermediate

Being prompt to school is one of the essential elements in having each day begin smoothly for your child and the child's classmates. **If a student is tardy to school, the parent or guardian must come into the school office to sign-in the student.** This helps ensure the safety of your child. This also eliminates the possibility that students are late without their parents being aware of their tardiness. **Any student in grades kindergarten through fifth grade who is checked in after 8:30 or checked out before 2:45 will be counted absent half a day.**

Habitual tardiness is disruptive to the education of the child. Equally important is the disruptive impact on the other students as the flow of the class is disrupted by the child's late entry, requiring the teacher to take time away from the class in order to get the tardy student on task with the other students.