



September 2024

Dear Wappingers Students and Families:

Since regular school attendance is a major factor in academic success, we want to encourage full attendance by all students. To minimize the number of unexcused absences, tardiness, and early departures (ATEDs), we need to maintain an accurate attendance record keeping system, identify patterns of student ATEDs, and develop effective intervention strategies to improve school attendance.

The complete attendance policy 5100 is on the district's website at www.wappingersschools.org under the Board of Education link at the top of the home page. (Go to "board docs; then to "policies".) The following is a summary of Policy 5100:

Excused and Unexcused Absences

Excused absences, tardiness, and early departures (ATEDs) from class or school, are due to the following:

- personal illness
- illness or death in the family
- impassable roads or weather
- religious observance
- quarantine
- required court appearances
- attendance at health clinics
- approved college visits
- approved cooperative work programs
- military obligations
- other excused absence per district discretion
- parent or legal guardian has been called to duty for
- is on leave from or immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting to be granted additional excused absences at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee
- or such other reasons as may be approved by the appropriate building

administrator (including, but not limited to, absences due to circumstances related to homelessness).

All other ATEDs are considered unexcused absences.

All ATEDs must be accounted for. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school office within 24 hours of the ATED and to provide a written excuse within seventy-two hours upon the student's return to school. An unexcused absence will be recorded unless an absence note is brought in within 10 days from the return to school.

General Procedures/Data Collection

- At the elementary level, parents will call the school at the opening of school to report their children absent for the day. The school will make phone calls to the homes of the parents of absent children who have not notified the school of their children's absences. The building administrator will send a letter home if the pattern of excessive or unusual absences occurs.
- At the junior and senior high levels, a threshold-based attendance calculation is used to determine a daily absence. A phone call will be made within 24 hours of a student being marked absent for the day to the home, unless the attendance office is notified of the reason for the absence during the day. Daily and period-based absences are available for review in our [Parent Portal](#).
- At the junior and senior high levels, any student entering a class after the beginning of the period is tardy for that class. A student is considered absent when the student misses more than 20 minutes of class.

Intervention

Continuous monitoring will be done to identify students who are absent, tardy, or leave class or school early. A student will be considered chronically absent if they miss ten percent or more of the quarter. Satisfactory attendance is missing five percent or less of school over the course of the year.

The attendance office will call home or send a letter if there is a pattern of excessive or unusual absences. Parents will be notified of unexcused absences and tardies through the mail. If a student does not bring in an absence note within seventy-two hours, an unexcused absence will be recorded until an absence note is brought in. The administration will have the right to request a doctor's note for excessive absences. If a student has excessive absences without proper documentation from a doctor, or is believed to be excessively absent without good reason, the parent/guardian will be notified with an explanation of the additional steps the district will take.

Every school as directed by their principal will identify a team that may include: Principal or other administrator in charge of attendance, counselors, nurse, teacher, parent representative, student representative, and additional personnel as designated by the principal to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to record, monitor, improve and maintain student attendance.

Attendance/Grade Policy

- Elementary children's attendance is dependent upon the parents. Therefore, absences, excused or unexcused, will not impact the children's grades if the work is made up in a timely manner. However, due to the nature of the classroom work, it may not be possible to replicate class work and the children's grades will reflect that loss of instruction.
- At the junior high level students who are absent from school and/or a class are responsible for completing all missed class work and homework within the teacher's established timeline for completion. The student and parent are responsible to check with his/her teacher/guidance counselor to determine the class work or homework that must be completed. Assignments not completed within the teacher's established timeline may receive a reduced score at the teacher's discretion. If a student has an unexcused absence on the day of a local final exam, he or she may receive a reduced score at the teacher's discretion on that test.
- At the high school level, a student's final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as the student's performance and homework, tests, papers, project. Unexcused absences, tardies and early dismissals will affect a student's class participation grade for the marking period. If a student has an unexcused absence on the day of a quiz, test, or exam, he or she may receive a reduced score at the teacher's discretion.

Teachers are not required but are encouraged to provide classwork and homework in advance for planned unexcused absences. The student and parent are responsible to check with his/her teacher/guidance counselor to know what classwork or homework must be completed.

WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Attendance Policy 5100

2024-2025

Within one week of the opening of school, each school shall send to the parents of each enrolled student a summary of the District Attendance Policy (the full version is available on the District website and full paper copies will be provided upon request). Each parent of a student shall sign and return to the school in which the student is enrolled a statement acknowledging the receipt / review of this Policy. Each school shall maintain records of such signed statements.

As parent/guardian, I have reviewed the District's Attendance Policy. The telephone number below is the number where I can be contacted for attendance issues.

Student ID # _____ **Grade:** _____ **Homeroom:** _____

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Telephone Number: _____

***PLEASE SIGN THIS PAGE AND
RETURN TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER***