



Policy Code: 4400 Attendance Update

Brunswick County Schools

Brunswick County Schools: Attendance Policy Update

In Brunswick County Schools, we understand that regular school attendance is essential for our students' success in school and later in life. Attendance is not only a state requirement but a building block for lifelong habits of accountability and achievement.

Policy Overview

State Requirements:

- The North Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law is applicable to all children, ages 7 to 16 years old.
- The law mandates school attendance for all children, including those under 7 years old, who are enrolled in a public school.
- After the accumulation of 10 unexcused absences in one school year, the Principal or designee is bound to review the case in consideration of the law.

Excused Absences:

- Up to **seven (7) school days per semester** may be excused based on parent notes.
- Additional absences for illness or other unavoidable causes must be documented by healthcare practitioners in order to be marked as excused.
- Notes must be submitted to the office within **five (5) days of returning** to be excused.
- Excused absences include illness, quarantine, death in the immediate family, medical appointments, court proceedings, religious observances, and pre-approved educational opportunities.

Unexcused Absences:

- **K-12:** After the accumulation of ten (10) *unexcused* absences in one school year, the district will follow truancy court referral procedures.
- **High School Only:** Students who exceed ten (10) unexcused absences in any course during a semester will not automatically receive credit toward graduation. However, students may restore eligibility for course credit through one of the following:
 - **Learning Recovery (LR):** Students may be given the opportunity to recover missed instructional content through a process that includes the prompt completion of all incomplete course work as well as targeted learning tasks aligned to the standards missed during the absences.
 - **Waiver Process:** Students with extenuating circumstances may request a waiver from the attendance requirement.

Chronic Absenteeism:

- Absences above 10% of school days enrolled, regardless of the reason (excused, unexcused, suspension), will trigger interventions to support academic and attendance success.
- Chronic absenteeism can impact academic standing and eligibility for certain activities and will lead to the consideration of grade retention.

Supporting Regular Attendance:

- Strategies: Engaging families, recognizing good attendance, and providing outreach.
- Support for Challenges: Addressing barriers to regular attendance with tailored strategies.
- Special circumstances, such as chronic health problems or homelessness, may be exempt from the policy.

Important Notes:

- Late Arrivals and Early Departures: These should be minimized, and a written excuse from a parent/guardian and/or medical provider is required.
- Athletic and Extracurricular Participation: Requires adherence to attendance rules.