

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The Waunakee Community School District is aware that student absenteeism affects a wide spectrum of people including students, teachers, administrators, and parents. The District is very concerned about how student absenteeism "short changes" the student's education, disrupts the instructional process, imposes on administrative time, and strains relations between parent and student.

The District recognizes that absenteeism cannot be cured; however, the District will implement positive and innovative steps in response to truancy in order to work toward successfully reducing absenteeism.

The District's approach toward reducing absenteeism will be to encourage parents and students to participate in developing appropriate educational programming for students and for the District to conduct on-going thorough examinations and evaluations of the total school environment which affect student attendance. Appropriate changes in educational programming and in the school environment will be made as needed. In addition, the approach will recognize that school personnel, and parents/guardians, as well as the students themselves, must share in the responsibility for truancy and consider making substantiate changes in how each approaches the educational process.

Therefore, the Waunakee Community School District instructs the superintendent to establish procedures relating to compulsory attendance. The attendance procedures will be comprised of the following components:

Compulsory Attendance Age - The Waunakee Community School District is committed to the philosophy and the enforcement of the state statutes pertaining to required attendance.

School Attendance Officer - The District recognizes that importance of good attendance procedures and further acknowledges the need for appropriate administrative control and implementation of these attendance procedures at each of the building campuses. The building principals shall serve as the school attendance officers.

Student Absences & Excuses - The District will exercise the "good cause" concept in excusing students from attendance.

Students with HIV/AIDS – A student with HIV infection has the same right to attend school and receive services as any other student and will be subject to the same rules and policies. HIV infection shall not factor into decisions concerning class assignments, privileges, or participation in any school-sponsored activity.

School authorities will determine the educational placement of a student known to be infected with HIV on a case-by-case basis by following established policies and procedures for students with chronic health problems or students with disabilities. Decision-makers must consult with the student's physician and parent or guardian, respect the student's and family's privacy rights, and reassess the placement if there is a change in the student's need for accommodations or services.

Program Modification - The District is committed to providing appropriate curriculum and curriculum modification procedures in an attempt to reduce absenteeism.

Parent Responsibility - The District will provide opportunities for parents/guardians to become involved in preventive measures designed to reduce absenteeism and will also orient the parents/guardians as to their responsibility in promoting good attendance habits with their sons/daughters.

Student Responsibility - The District will provide on-going orientation for the students relating to their responsibility for being accountable for their own attendance. The District will also provide opportunities for students to become involved in preventive measures designed to reduce absenteeism.

School Responsibility - Although the District realizes that sanctions available to the District for enforcing attendance statutes are limited, a process pursuant to state statutes will be initiated with each student involved in a truancy situation.

Teacher Responsibility - The District recognizes that all professional staff who are associated with students have a role in helping to reduce absenteeism.

Principal Responsibility - The District recognizes that necessity for each building principal to exercise an important role in the reduction of absenteeism at his/her respective campus.

Legal Referral - The District recognizes that despite all efforts made in the District to reduce absenteeism there will always be students who continue their truancy patterns. The District further recognizes that in severe cases of truancy it may be necessary to pursue a legal referral to intensify efforts to reduce absenteeism among students with severe truancy patterns.

Legal Ref.:	Sections	115
		118.13
		118.15 Wisconsin Statutes
		118.16
		118.162
		Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1972
		Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
		Civil Rights Act of 1991
		IDEA

Cross Ref.: 342.1 – Programs for Students with Exceptional Educational Needs
342.2 – Homebound Instruction
411 – Equal Educational Opportunities
430-Rule (1), Student Attendance Procedures
430-Rule (2), Truancy Response Procedures
430-Exhibit, Truancy Referral Form

Adopted: 1/13/86

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Waunakee Community School District